

# FSSH COMMUNITY UPDATES

January 2025 / Vol 3

*Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement)*

## FOREWARD

*Salam UNIMAS Lestari,*

It gives me great pleasure to present Volume 3 of the *FSSH Community Updates*. This bulletin highlights our activities under the purview of community and industry engagement in 2024. This publication serves not only as a reflection of our commitment to societal betterment but also as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Aligned with the Faculty's motto, "A Partner for Social Change," this bulletin reaffirms our dedication to pursue meaningful societal transformation.

In 2024, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities continued to embark on a journey to deepen its impact, guided by the belief that academic excellence must be paired with meaningful community contributions. Our faculty members, students, and collaborators have worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between theory and practice, addressing pressing social challenges and fostering sustainable partnerships. From workshops in rural communities to collaborative partnerships with industry players, our initiatives have sought to make a tangible difference.

This bulletin highlights a diverse array of projects, including educational outreach programs aimed at empowering youth and marginalised groups, research-driven initiatives focused on cultural preservation, social equity, and environmental sustainability, and partnerships with industries to promote innovative solutions for community development. In FSSH, our community is our industry! In FSSH, our industry is the community itself, as we engage directly with people, policies, and social systems to create knowledge, drive change, and improve society, rather than producing commercial goods or technological innovations.

Each of these activities highlights the Faculty's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our role as agents of change in an ever-evolving society.



Through these efforts, we aim to inspire and nurture a generation of socially conscious leaders who are equipped to navigate complex global challenges.

I wish to thank the Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement), Dr Regina Garai, our community and industry partners and the Faculty members for their commitment and support that make these achievements possible. Your passion, resilience, and ingenuity are the cornerstones of our success.

As we look ahead, let this bulletin be a source of inspiration and a call to action. Together, we can continue to forge meaningful connections, foster innovation, and drive impactful change. Thank you for your support and for being part of this journey.

*Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah*  
Dean

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the 2024 edition of FSSH Community Updates. It is with great pride that we bring you this compilation of stories, achievements, and reflections that capture the spirit of engagement and collaboration that defines our Faculty.

As editor, and the Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement), I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication and passion that drive our community. Each project featured in this bulletin tells a story of innovation, perseverance, and the commitment to making a difference. From grassroots initiatives to large-scale collaborations, these efforts demonstrate the transformative impact of partnerships between academia, industry, and communities.

In the field of social sciences, our industry is our community. Unlike other scientific fields that rely on laboratories, factories, or corporate settings, our work is deeply embedded in society itself. Our industry is not a factory, lab, or corporate office—it is the society we study, engage with, and strive to improve. Our "products" are policies, awareness, behavioural change, and social progress, all of which rely on deep connections with communities. Social scientists collaborate directly with communities to drive change in areas such as social work, cultural heritage preservation, development, leadership and public policy, environmental sustainability, and education. Whether it is engaging with marginalised groups, shaping inclusive policies, or co-developing development planning initiatives, our impact is measured by the well-being and progress of the communities we serve. The work we do extends beyond academic discourse into real-world applications that impact lives and shape societies.

In the social sciences, the impact of our work with communities is often not immediate and intangible. Make no mistake, unlike other fields, social sciences projects often require a longer gestation period to see their full impact. This is because social phenomena are complex, and understanding the effects of social interventions, behaviours, or policies takes time. Thus, it can be challenging to measure compared to other fields. While medical sciences may track recovery rates or engineering projects show structural completions, social change occurs gradually and is influenced by deep-rooted cultural, economic, and political factors. For example, efforts to improve educational access in marginalised communities or initiatives to foster social cohesion require long-term engagement, policy shifts, and behavioural changes that unfold over years rather than months.



Additionally, FSSH conducts community-driven courses that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our SULAM and CARE courses focus on enhancing societal well-being via knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer. These courses equip students with the knowledge and skills to address pressing social issues while actively engaging with local communities.

FSSH, in particular, emphasises SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), SDG16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by building multi-stakeholder collaborations that drive sustainable and inclusive development.

I hope this edition inspires further collaborations and reinforces the importance of bridging academia with the community. Moving forward, we envision expanding our efforts to cultivate long-term partnerships that not only address current social challenges but also anticipate future needs, ensuring that our engagement remains responsive, innovative, and impactful.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important work and to those who will continue upholding these efforts. Your dedication reflects our commitment as a **Community-driven University for a Sustainable World** and **A Partner for Social Change**. Together, we can create lasting impact through awareness, action, and shared responsibility.

*Dr Regina Garai*  
*Editor/ Deputy Dean (Industry & Community*  
*Engagement)*



## SESI PERKONGSIAN ILMU BERSAMA PELAJAR DI EMPELANJAU ASAL, PANTU SRI AMAN.

**Leader:** Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah

**Team Members:**

Dr Regina Garai  
AP Dr Wong Swee Kiong

**Date:** 8 March 2024

**Location:** Rh Freddy Lani,  
Kampung Empelanjau Asal,  
Pantu, Sri Aman



### Objectives:

- Inspire a love for learning by motivating young pupils to see education as an exciting and rewarding journey by incorporating engaging storytelling, relatable examples, and fun, interactive explanations during sessions.
- Foster creativity through playful education - by enhancing understanding of key learning concepts while encouraging creativity by integrating coloring activities, hands-on projects, and games that make the learning experience enjoyable and memorable.



### Impacts to the Community:

- Based on feedback and observation during the session, pupils become more enthusiastic about education as they associate learning with fun and creativity, making them more attentive and motivated to participate in class activities.
- Boost confidence and self-expression - Through creative activities like coloring, pupils feel a sense of achievement and develop confidence in expressing their ideas and emotions visually.
- Encouragement of creativity and imagination - Creative exercises like coloring allow pupils to think outside the box, encouraging imagination and innovation in their approach to problem-solving and learning.



## SESI PERKONGSIAN ILMU BERSAMA PELAJAR DI KAMPUNG SEMADA, BALAI RINGIN, SERIAN



**Leader:** AP Dr Wong Swee Kiong

**Team Members:**  
Dr Nicholas Gani  
Kelvin Egay John

**Date:** 10 March 2024

**Location:** Balairaya Kampung Semada, Balai Ringin, Serian

### Objectives:

This program aims to share knowledge with the participants, who consist of primary school students, about the importance and challenges of education in rural areas today. In addition, the session also provide a platform for motivating both the participants to continue excelling in their education.



### Impacts to the Community:

- Awareness about the importance of education - which was delivered in fun and playful atmosphere.
- Boost confidence and self-expression - Through creative activities like coloring, pupils feel a sense of achievement and develop confidence in expressing their ideas and emotions visually.



## Randau on Grassroots Leadership and the Role of Adat



This USR project, in the form of a randau session, was conducted to raise awareness and knowledge on *adat* and leadership. A total of 70 people participated, comprise of Tuai Rumah (longhouse chiefs) and their JKKK member from the Batang Kabo area, Saratok.

It is highly relevant at this time, especially in providing knowledge and raising awareness at the grassroots level among the Iban community in longhouses.

### Objectives:

- (i) Explaining the characteristics of good and effective leadership in addressing various issues and challenges at the grassroots level;
- (ii) Discussing the importance of knowledge about Adat (customary practices) in the management of a longhouse;
- (iii) Highlighting the role of Adat in preserving culture at the grassroots level.

### Impacts to the Community:

- (i) Enhancing participants' knowledge of the fundamentals of leadership;
- (ii) Increasing participants' understanding of Adat (customary practices) and how to implement Adat at the longhouse level, in accordance with the Adat Iban 1993;
- (iii) Equipping participants to share the knowledge they have gained with their respective villages/communities.

**Leader:** Prof Datu Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat

**Date:** 16 August 2024

**Location:** Rh TR Sylvia Gupie, Kabo, Saratok





# University Social Responsibility Project



**Leader:** Prof Datu Dr  
Neilson Ilan Mersat

**Team Member:**  
Dr Regina Garai

**Date:** 20 September 2024

**Location:** Rh TR Alin anak  
Ngadan, Begumbang, Layar,  
Betong



## Randau Perkembangan & Penyertaan Dalam Bidang Pendidikan

This University Social Responsibility (USR) project was in the form of discussion or "randau" session. It was conducted to increase awareness and knowledge on the role and importance of education. Participants consist of 40 parents and schoolchildren from the community of Tuai Rumah Alin Anak Ngadan in Begumbang, Layar Betong.

### Objectives:

- (i) enhance knowledge by providing participants with the latest information on developments in the field of education, including new theories, techniques, and technologies.
- (ii) To provide a platform for exchanging ideas and best practices between parents and their children.
- (iii) To motivate participants by exposing them to experiences and successes in the field of education, while fostering a spirit of innovation and creativity.

### Impacts to the Community:

- (i) The project empowered the community with valuable insights into critical education topics, equipping them to address current challenges, embrace best practices, and stay informed about advancements in the field.
- (ii) The project inspired a stronger commitment to education within the community, raising awareness about its significance and encouraging active participation and support for educational initiatives.





## SESI PERKONGSIAN BERSAMA WARGA SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN JAONG, PANTU SRI AMAN.

**Leader:** Dr Leha Saliman

**Team Members:**

Prof Datu Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat  
Dr Nor Rafidah Saidon  
Athifah Bolhassan  
Najiha Zainudin  
Muhammad Azzubair Awwam  
Dick Lembang Dugun  
Nurul Huda Binti Marwan

**Date:** 12 November 2024

**Location:** Sekolah Kebangsaan Jaong,  
Pantu, Sri Aman



### Objectives:

- expose participants to elements of teaching and learning;
- To discuss current issues and challenges faced by students today; and
- To motivate participants to pursue excellence in learning while facing various challenges.



### Impacts to the Community:

- Enhance awareness of the importance of education and boost the motivation of students facing various challenges.
- Encourage a spirit of collaboration among students by exposing them to situations requiring positive interaction, effective communication, and collective problem-solving.
- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge as participants (comprising students and teachers) apply what they learned from the program.
- Foster a sustainable community by enabling participants to share their knowledge with peers and other community members





## Colouring Life for Taska & Tadika Kemas, Kampung Benuk, Padawan

**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Team Members:**  
22 students from Social Work  
Programme

**Date:** 27 November 2024

**Location:** Taska Bahasa dan  
Warisan Bidayuh DBNA and Tadika  
Kemas Kampung Benuk, Padawan

The "Coloring Life" program was held at Taska Bahasa dan Warisan Bidayuh DBNA and Tadika Kemas Kampung Benuk, involving 45 participants. The main activity focused on coloring, providing an interactive and engaging experience for the children. Students from the Social Work Programme, participated in the event to interact with the children, teachers, and staff.



### Objectives:

- To introduce the children to various occupations, helping them develop an understanding of potential career paths.
- To inspire children to set aspirations for their future in a fun and creative way.
- To strengthen ties between UNIMAS students and local communities while promoting education and awareness about higher learning institutions.



### Impacts to the Community

- Children gained exposure to various career options, inspiring them to dream about their future aspirations.
- Stronger community bonds were built through meaningful interactions between UNIMAS students, children, teachers, and staff.
- The daycare environment was improved with freshly painted walls, creating a more cheerful and welcoming space for learning.



## Protecting Children for the Future



**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Team Members:**  
12 students from Social Work Programme

**Date:** 27 November 2024

**Location:** Kampung Giam Baru, Padawan



The session was conducted at Kampung Giam Baru on November 27, 2024 and was attended by approximately 14 community members, including the village chief of Kampung Giam Baru and the Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK). The session was led by third-year students from the Social Work Program, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), who delivered valuable and engaging information to the participants.

### Objectives:

- To remind parents of the importance of monitoring their children's activities and maintaining open communication.
- To educate children on internet safety and the importance of not keeping secrets from their parents.
- To teach children how and when to respond in emergencies



### Impacts to the Community

- Parents gained greater awareness of their role in ensuring their children's safety and well-being through active monitoring and communication.
- Children were equipped with essential knowledge on staying safe online, including avoiding the sharing of personal information and fostering trust with their parents.
- Practical skills were imparted to children, empowering them to handle emergencies confidently by knowing when and how to dial 999.





## Let's Wash Hands Properly with SK St Gregory, Padawan

**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Team Members:**  
12 students from Social Work Programme

**Date:** 28 November 2024

**Location:** SK St Gregory, Kampung Giam Lama, Padawan

The "Let's Wash Hands Properly" project was conducted by Social Work Program students, led by Dr Zamri Hassan. The project included a practical demonstration, interactive learning activities, and a quiz to test participants' understanding. The active involvement of students and teachers ensured the message was effectively delivered, fostering greater awareness of the importance of hygiene practices within the community.

### Objective:

To educate students and teachers about proper handwashing techniques to prevent the spread of diseases like rabies, HFMD, and COVID-19.



## Impacts to the Community

- Increased Awareness of Hygiene Practices:** This knowledge empowers the community to adopt better hygiene practices, creating a healthier environment.
- Engagement and Capacity Building:** By involving local teachers and Social Work Program students, the project fostered collaboration and enhanced the capacity of the community to sustain hygiene initiatives.
- Positive Behavioral Change:** The teachers and students can act as advocates for continuing similar awareness activities in the future.



## Stepping into a Career World



**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Members:** 22 students from Social Work Programme.

**Date:** 27 November 2024

**Location:** Kampung Giam Baru



Stepping into the Career World Talk Program was held at Kampung Giam Baru, involving approximately 14 villagers. The program focused on exposing the community to the transition from campus life to the workforce, helping them understand the challenges and preparations needed. A total of 22 Social Work students from UNIMAS participated in the program, engaging with the committee members and residents to share insights into social work studies and the definition of social work.

### Objectives

- To introduce the transition from campus life to the workforce and necessary preparations.
- To explain the importance of social work in community development.
- To share knowledge on career challenges and inspire engagement in social development and professional careers.



### Impacts to the Community

- Villagers learned about the campus-to-workforce transition and career preparations.
- The program highlighted Social Work's role in community development.
- UNIMAS students and villagers built stronger connections, promoting future collaboration.



## Needs Assessment and Community Profile : Realizing the Facts and Fun



**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Members:** 12 students from Social Work Programme, also attended by JKKK Kampung Giam Lama

**Date:** 27 November 2024

**Location:** The Baruh, Kampung Giam Lama

This session was held to provide the community about the existing resources and how to change the resources into opportunities

### Objectives:

- Increase Social Awareness by promoting caring and concern for health and education issues in the community
- Empower the Community through educational and training opportunities to improve skills and independence
- Expand Access to Basic Services such as health and education to improve the quality of life of the community.



### Impacts to the Community

- Assist community to determine the most important process gaps to achieve desired outcome in community development
- The first step in the development of community engagement activities, as it's a learning process which leads to an understanding of the community dynamics, which may influence and/or have an impact on program access and uptake.
- Community to comprehensively understanding the needs, resources, and functioning of a community in order to develop action plans to improve quality of life.





## Navigating Options - Jom Masuk U



**Leader:** Dr Zamri Hassan

**Members:** 10 students from Social Work Programme, also attended by Ketua Kampung Giam Lama

**Date:** 26 November 2024

**Location:** The Baruh, Kampung Giam Lama

The Jom Masuk U program opens up opportunities for rural students to explore higher education. This program provides students with exposure to the university admission process and relevant fields of study. In addition, experience sharing sessions by university students also inspire school students to aspire to further their education. This effort not only increases students' confidence, but also gives hope to their families that higher education can change the future.



### Objectives:

- Increase students' motivation to pursue higher education.
- Provide guidance to students in choosing the right course.
- Help students understand the eligibility criteria, admission requirements, and university admission procedures.

### Impacts to the Community:

- Students are provided with information about higher education opportunities, guidance for students and encouragement for those who want to continue their studies at the university level.
- This program also involves experience sharing sessions by university students to provide inspiration.
- This initiative aims to open up educational opportunities for rural students, thus helping to create a more educated and viable society.



## Sanggar Tari: Learning Culture, Embracing Sustainability

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) has taken a meaningful step in cultural sustainability with its Sanggar Tari initiative. It aims to preserve and promote the traditional dances by engaging and educating youth in its significance and practice. The *tamat* ceremony was held on 31 January 2024 and was attended by our collaborator, Dayak Cultural Foundation.



*Sanggar Tari was established as part of FSSH's broader commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). By providing structured learning sessions on Ngajat, the initiative not only nurtures appreciation for Sarawak's rich cultural heritage but also ensures its continuity among younger generations.*

### Objectives:

- **Cultural Preservation:** To safeguard the art of Ngajat (and other traditional dances) by passing down traditional knowledge to younger generations.
- **Youth Engagement:** To instill a sense of pride and belonging among youth by immersing them in Sarawak's indigenous cultural expressions.
- **Sustainability in Arts:** To encourage the long-term practice of traditional dances through regular training, community involvement, and performances at cultural events.

### Impacts:

- Participants develop a deeper appreciation for Sarawak's cultural heritage through hands-on experience with traditional dance.
- Increased confidence and stage presence through participation in performances and workshops.
- Preservation of indigenous cultural identity by passing Ngajat to future generations.
- Enhanced sense of community and responsibility towards cultural sustainability among participants.

I have applied the dance skills I learned throughout my participation in the Sanggar Tari program. This year, in 2024, I had the opportunity to visit a friend's longhouse and was able to practice and perform during the recent Gawai celebration, even though I have not yet mastered all the movements.

Alfrin, a Bidayuh from Kampung Bojong, Padawan.



Alistair also gained confidence to performance ngajat during *ngetas ranyai* at his kampung during Gawai 2024



Ms. Rakuho Mori, a Japanese mobility student to UNIMAS, had never missed a session of Sanggar Tari. She was chosen as one of the participants to perform the dance during the closing event.



The participants came from different backgrounds and ethnicity.



# Sanggar Tari 2024: Study Visit to Dayak Cultural Foundation

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) visited the Dayak Cultural Foundation (DCF) as part of the Sanggar Tari programme, strengthening collaborations in cultural preservation and education. This partnership aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities by promoting cultural heritage and lifelong learning through traditional performing arts.

During the visit, DCF showcased a variety of traditional dances, offering insights into the rich cultural heritage of the region. Their skilled performers demonstrated intricate movements and symbolic expressions, reflecting the diverse ethnic traditions of Sarawak. By preserving and sharing these traditions, the programme contributes to SDG 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Beyond performances, DCF also conducted a short workshop, allowing participants to engage hands-on with traditional dance techniques and musical instruments. Students and staff from FSSH benefited from direct coaching by professional dancers, gaining a deeper understanding of traditional art forms. They were also given a glimpse into the studio of DCF's professional dancers, experiencing firsthand the dedication and discipline required in cultural performance. This interactive experience supports SDG 4.7, which emphasizes the role of education in fostering appreciation for cultural diversity and sustainable development.

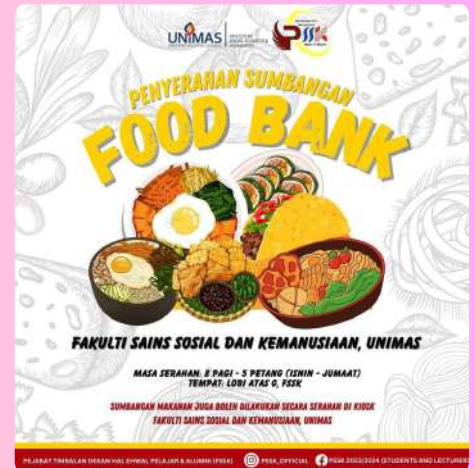




## A Rebranding: From Food Bank to Lemari Kasih



The Food Bank at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), which was established in 2018, has been a vital initiative aimed at supporting students and individuals in need by providing essential food supplies. As part of a rebranding effort in January 2024, the initiative was renamed Lemari Kasih, symbolizing a compassionate space where generosity and community care come together. Lemari Kasih continues to serve as a sustainable support system, ensuring that those facing food insecurity have access to nutritious resources while forging a culture of kindness and mutual assistance within the university.



As part of the Lemari Kasih rebranding week in January 2024, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) organized a special initiative to support students during their exam period. Understanding the stress and challenges that come with exams, the faculty provided free nasi lemak to students, offering them not just a nutritious meal but also a gesture of encouragement and care.



The event saw an overwhelming response, with students appreciating the thoughtful support during a crucial time. Faculty members and volunteers (PSSK) came together to distribute the meals, reinforcing the spirit of community and compassion that Lemari Kasih embodies. This initiative reflects FSSH's commitment to student well-being, ensuring that no student faces food insecurity, especially during critical academic periods.





# Empowering Through Gardening

**Leader:** Dr Dolly Paul Carlo

**Team Member:**  
Dr Athirah Azhar

**Funding:**  
RM 50,000 from Ministry of Finance

**Collaborator:** Halfway Home



“Empowering Through Gardening,” was developed to empower participants through hands-on gardening activities that promote both personal and communal growth. The initiative was approved by the Ministry of Finance in early July 2024, marking the beginning of the project’s implementation under the Komuniti @ UniMADANI Phase 2 funding.

## Objectives:

1. To engage Halfway Home residents in active, meaningful participation through gardening activities, fostering a sense of accomplishment and self-efficacy.
2. To generate income from the sale of gardening, demonstrating the residents’ capabilities and contribution to the community.
3. To reduce stigma and discrimination associated with mental health issues.
4. To promote the social inclusion of individuals with mental health conditions.



## Outcomes / Impacts

Monitoring visit by representatives from the Ministry of Finance on 21 November 2024 concluded that the project had met all its objectives.

The community benefitted by having vegetables for their own consumptions and earning income from the sales of the vegetables. From 2 November till 11 December 2024, they generated approximately RM1285.90 from the sales.





# Community Project at Kampung Sampun Gerunggang

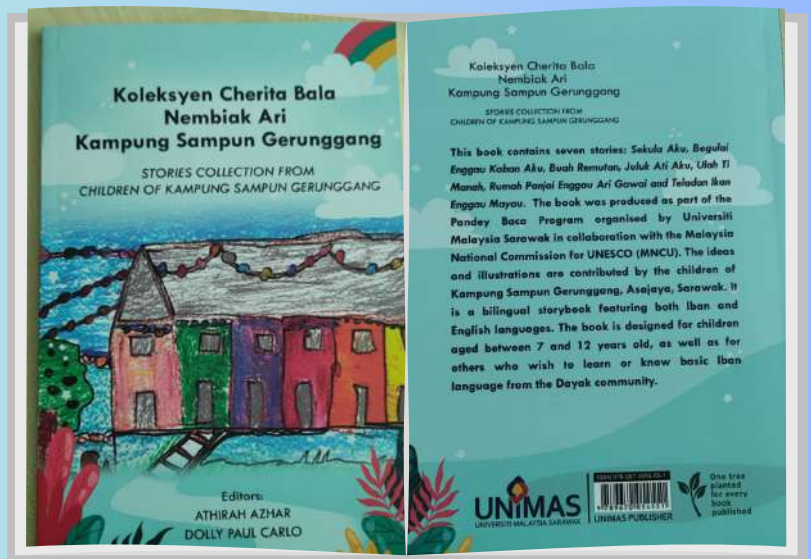
***The output is a published book!!!***

**Leader:** Dr Athirah Azhar

**Team Members:**  
Dr Dolly Paul Carlo  
Ketty Daun

**Funding:** Suruhanjaya Kebangsaan  
UNESCO Malaysia (SKUM)

**Collaborator:** JKKK Kampung Sampun  
Gerunggang



This UNESCO-funded project focuses on fostering literacy, creativity, and community empowerment in Kampung Sampun Gerunggang, Asajaya. The outcome of the project stories are then compiled into a book, serving as both a creative expression and a lasting documentation of their narratives.

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this initiative addresses SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting literacy and creative thinking, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by preserving local stories and traditions.

## Outcomes / Impacts

Beyond education, this project fosters community engagement by involving parents, teachers, and students in the process. The published book not only showcases the children's creativity but also strengthens their sense of identity and pride in their community. Ultimately, this initiative demonstrates how storytelling can be a powerful tool for empowerment and sustainable development in rural communities.





# Wacana Industri & Komuniti 2024



This sharing session was conducted under the Wacana Industri & Komuniti 2024, organised by the Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement), as an effort to enhance the learning experience and better prepare students for the professional world. It serves as a platform to offer exposure, valuable networking opportunities, career guidance, skill development, and to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world practices.



**Penalist:** Jona Anak Kerani

He is the Director of Malaysian Investment Development Agency (MIDA) Sarawak. MIDA is an investment promotion agency (IPA) under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for the development of the manufacturing and services sector in Malaysia.

**Date:** 21 May 2024

FSSH recognizes the importance of real-world insights for academic and personal growth and this platform helps to provide students with knowledge and perspectives that seasoned and experienced professional can offer.



*The sharing session gave new perspectives that expanded my understanding of the industry, particularly regarding the role of MIDA in development ... the need to engage with community and negotiating collaborations both domestically and internationally ...*

Abdul Muhaimin bin Gani (student)



# Wacana Industri & Komuniti 2024

## In Collaboration with Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia, Cawangan Sarawak

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) partnered with Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia Cawangan Sarawak in organising two online seminars in 2024. This is a continuation from our past collaboration, focusing on knowledge sharing and sustained collaborations, led by its President, Prof Datu Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat and Dr Nur Auni Ugong (EXCO).

These online seminars were aimed at fostering discussions on historical narratives and their contemporary relevance. This collaboration brought together academics, historians, and students to engage in insightful dialogues led by experts.

By leveraging digital platforms, the seminar provided an accessible and interactive space for knowledge-sharing, reinforcing the shared commitment of both institutions to education, historical awareness, community engagement and nation building.





### Siri Webinar Bedah Buku

#### RESETTING MALAYSIA: LOOKING AT THE CONCEPT AND ITS IMPLICATION TO OUR NATION



**PANELIST**

+++ Prof. Dr Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi  
+++ Professor of Architecture, UCSI University  
+++

**MODERATOR**

Dr Nur Auni Ugong  
UNIMAS

Selasa, 15.10.2024

ZOOM: [https://bit.ly/webinar\\_psmcs](https://bit.ly/webinar_psmcs)

10.00 am - 1.00 pm



ANJURAN BERSAMA:  
PERSATUAN SEJARAH MALAYSIA CAWANGAN SARAWAK  
PEJABAT TIMBALAN DEKAN (HUBUNGAN INDUSTRI DAN MASYARAKAT), FSSK UNIMAS



## FORUM KEMERDEKAAN 2024

KEDAULATAN SARAWAK DALAM MALAYSIA :  
CABARAN AWAL ERA KONFRONTASI 1963-1966

### WEBINAR

12  
SEPTEMBER  
2024

10 AM- 12 PM

**ZOOM:**  
[https://bit.ly/PSMCS\\_FSSK](https://bit.ly/PSMCS_FSSK)





**PANEL :**  
DR ABDUL RAHMAN BIN  
MAD ALI@ABANG  
PENSYARAH  
BAHAGIAN SEJARAH, USM



**MODERATOR:**  
DR NUR AUNI  
UGONG  
TIMBALAN DEKAN  
(HEPA), UNIMAS

ANJURAN BERSAMA:  
PERSATUAN SEJARAH MALAYSIA CAWANGAN SARAWAK  
PEJABAT TIMBALAN DEKAN (HUBUNGAN INDUSTRI DAN MASYARAKAT), FSSK UNIMAS

**Penalist:** Dr Abdul Rahman Bin Mad Ali@Abang

**Topic:** Kedaulatan Sarawak Dalam Malaysia:  
Cabaran Awal Era Konfrontasi 1963-1966

**Date:** 12 September 2024

**Penalist:** Prof. Dr Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi

**Topic:** Seminar Bedah Buku: Resetting Malaysia:  
Looking at the Concepts and its Implications to  
Our Nation

**Date:** 15 October 2024



# Building a Better World: School Sustainability Toolkits

## SSR2103: Basic Concepts and Issues in Development



### 1 Introduction

SSR 2103: Basic Concepts and Issues in Development has been identified as a course under CARE (Community Resilience Experiential Learning) Framework. It is a curriculum that promotes student learning by addressing community needs, serves to enhance student learning of course content, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.



### 2 Education Toolkit Project

The project undertaken is called "Building a Better World: School Sustainability Toolkits". Students was tasked to create an educational toolkit suitable for raising awareness of SDGs among secondary school students.

- provides students with exposures about sustainability,
- becoming a social change agent by promoting SDGs to schools.

Such exposure to real-life experiences enables FSSH students to apply their knowledge and skills in a hands-on approach.



*"... memberi kesedaran mendalam tentang pentingnya peranan individu dalam mencapai SDG 2030"*

Cikgu Corina (SMK Muara Tuang)

*"... from the exhibition, we now know we can take action to improve our way of life to achieve SDG 2030) ... and important to have the awareness"*

Jeevika (student, SMK Sungai Tapang)

### 3 Impacts of the project

(i) To the community: Knowledge exchange: increase awareness about SDGs and how they can help to achieve SDGs.

(ii) To the community: Building relationships between students, the educational institutions, APPGM and UNIMAS

(iii) To the students: Real world application, i.e. hands on experience becoming an agent of social change and SDG advocate

### 4 Achievements

- The students created SDG-related educational toolkits for schools.
- Feedback from the participants: they have managed to raise awareness about the different SDGs as well as promoting local actions that can be replicated by the target community in order to achieve SDGs - as individual, and as a school community.
- An outstanding exhibition that highlight the different SDGs, and potential solutions to solve the SDG-related challenges.

### 5 Lecturers

Dr Regina Garai  
 Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah



### 1 Introduction

Through this CARE project, students are encouraged to propose and execute various interventions based on their assessments of the respective agencies involved. Hence, the title "Together We Bring About Change," is fitting within the context of the students' assessments of the social welfare service agencies.

Students determined appropriate interventions based on the findings of their assessments. In other words, based on their evaluations, students will identify the challenges and needs of the agencies and subsequently propose and implement interventions accordingly.

### 2 Interventions

Through this CARE project, students are able to propose and implement various interventions based on their assessments of the involved agencies. Therefore, the title of this CARE project, "Together We Bring About Change," is fitting within the context of the students' assessments of social welfare service agencies. It is the students who will determine the appropriate interventions based on the assessments they conduct.

In other words, from their assessments, students will identify the issues and needs of the agencies and subsequently propose and execute interventions based on the findings of their evaluations.

### 5 Lecturers

Dr Dolly Paul Carlo  
Dr Athirah Azhar



The FSSH students and their lecturer, Dr. Athirah Azhar (seated, third left) pose with a family they visited.

KUCHING (Dec 27): A group of students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (Unimas) Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) stepped beyond the confines of lecture halls and textbooks to bring Christmas joy to three single mothers and their children.

Under the 'Project Care' initiative, launched in collaboration with Hope Place Kuching, four final-year students took it upon themselves to raise funds for underserved single mothers.

With the theme 'Your Contribution, Their Strength', the project aimed to promote a spirit of giving and community while easing the burdens of struggling families.

### 3 Impacts of the project

It has brought changes and uniqueness to the context of social work for the target groups and the various social welfare service agencies involved.



### 4 Achievements

All the plans proposed for the CARE Project for Semester 1, 2024/2025: "Together We Bring About Change" have been successfully implemented by the students and lecturers in collaboration with the respective agencies where the students were placed. Each CARE project carried out under the SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice course has made an impact, whether directly or indirectly, on the students, the target groups of the agencies, and the agencies involved.



"... This project is not only about extending a helping hand, but also about fostering a stronger sense of community and building empathy among those involved"

Richard (Social Work Student)



Collaborators: Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Kota Samarahan, Rumah Seri Kenangan Kuching, Desa Bina Diri, Pusat Pemulihan Samarahan, Sekolah Tunas Bakti, Rumah Kanak-Kanak Toh Puan Hajah Norkiah, Half-way Home-Sarawak mental health Association, Hope Place Kuching, The Salvation Army Community Services, and Persatuan Perkhidmatan Komuniti Pekak Sarawak.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE: EVALUATING NEEDS AND CREATING SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

## SSS3113: Community Work

### 1 Introduction

SSS3113 Community Work is designed to improve the quality of life of the chosen community. As part of the course, this field course will provide students with exposures about community development in line with CARE explication such as concrete experiences, reflective observation and active experimentation. Such exposure to real-life experiences enables students to apply their knowledge and skills in a hands-on approach



### 2 Objectives

1. Enhance learning by providing real-life experiences (learning beyond the classroom).
2. Enrich understanding of the basic concepts and issues in community development and skill through interactive and transformative community engagement among selected community.
3. Creating a platform to comprehend the future needs of the local communities via community needs assessment.

### 3 Impacts of the project

- i. Improve awareness to the participants about UNIMAS and educational resources.
- ii. Imparting (and developing) essential skills that are crucial for community growth.
- iii. Benefits to students - improving their personal and inter-personal skills.

We have shared responsibilities, brainstormed solutions, and supported each other in achieving our CARE common goals.

### 4 Achievements

The initiatives served as an educational platform for Social Work students, equipping them with essential skills such as community engagement, event planning, and collaborative problem solving. This hands-on experience not only enhanced their education but also empowered them to contribute effectively to societal development.



Lecturer

5

Dr Zamri Hassan



### 1 Introduction

Students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) are doing what they can to reduce mismanaged plastic waste through the "Reduce Plastic, Make Fantastic Ecobricks!" project involving five secondary schools around Kota Samarahan and Kuching.

This project, carried out in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB) Sarawak, is part of the Faculty's EXCEL CARE (Community Resilience Experiential Learning) activities. It is done through the collaboration and active participation of Kelab Pencinta Alam Sekitar (PALS) of the respective schools.

### 2 Ecobricks

The main objective of the CARE project is to raise awareness and educate students, especially secondary school students, about the environmental impact of uncontrolled plastic waste. This ecobrick project was introduced as an initiative to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated.

The activities conducted include:

1. A knowledge-sharing session on plastic waste pollution
2. An introductory briefing on ecobricks by students and lecturers from FSSH.
3. A hands-on ecobrick-making activity with the students.
4. Closed competition between participating schools to make the best ecobrick stool.



### 4 Achievements

Mr. Gustian bin Haji Durani (Pemangku Setiausaha Perbandaran) applauded the idea behind ecobricks that is in line with MPKS's aim to turn Kota Samarahan into a low-carbon city. The council has planned numerous activities and engagements involving the community to create a greener, healthier and more sustainable Kota Samarahan.

### 3 Impacts of the project

"Reduce Plastic, Make Fantastic Ecobricks!" goes beyond just crafting furniture.

- (i) This project achieves a sense of environmental consciousness for those involved.
- (ii) The project has demonstrated the power of ecobricks as a sustainable solution by diverting plastic waste away from landfills and turning it into something useful for daily use.
- (iii) The active participation of UNIMAS, NREB and the respective schools have contributed towards creating a feeling of belonging to the ecobrick project, thus making it a true partnership effort.

### 5 Lecturers

Dr Haslina Hashim  
 Dr Daniel Ugih Echoh





## 1 Introduction

The Borneo's Culture & Ethnicity Showcase 2024 aimed to promote the rich cultural heritage of Borneo's diverse ethnic groups through performances, dialogues, and exhibitions while fostering academic-community collaboration. The initiative, as part of the Service-Learning Malaysia (SULAM) approach, provided students with hands-on learning experiences, allowing them to connect academic knowledge with practical community service. The event also encouraged cultural knowledge sharing through interactive activities and discussions, engaged stakeholders in heritage preservation, and nurtured students' civic responsibility in sustaining cultural diversity.



## 3 Impacts of the project

The program had significant impacts on students:

- (i) enhancing their understanding of cultural heritage through experiential learning, improving critical thinking and communication skills, and fostering a greater appreciation for diversity;
- (ii) strengthened community engagement by increasing participation from stakeholders and raising public awareness about cultural sustainability.
- (iii) the event reinforced institutional contributions to society by positioning the university as a key player in cultural conservation and demonstrating the relevance of academic expertise in heritage preservation.

## 5

### Lecturer

Dr Nur Auni Ugong

## 2 Cultural Showcase

The event featured cultural exhibitions and showcases with participation from 12 cultural associations, displaying traditional costumes, artifacts, and crafts. Furthermore, traditional games, interactive quizzes, and craft-making demonstrations engaged participants in hands-on cultural learning experiences. These activities created a vibrant space for knowledge transfer and strengthened collaboration between the university and local communities.



## 4 Achievements

Ultimately, the Borneo's Culture & Ethnicity Showcase 2024 had successfully bridged academic learning with community-driven efforts, ensuring that cultural heritage remains relevant, appreciated, and preserved for future generations.



Collaborators: Dayak Bidayuh Nasional Association, Gendang Warisan Wawasan Budaya, Kadazan Dusun Cultural Association, Persatuan Melanau Kuching, Persatuan Kayan Sarawak, Sarakup Indu Dayak Sarawak, Indian Association Kuching, Sarawak Dayak Iban Association, Association of Research and Development Movement of Singai Sarawak, Amanah Khairat Yayasan Budaya Melayu Sarawak, Pertubuhan Komuniti Warisan dan Kebudayaan Bugis Daerah Sadong Jaya, and Persatuan Komuniti Etnik Kajang Sarawak.



## 1 Introduction

As part of the Service-Learning Malaysia (SULAM) approach, this course organised the OSH Awareness Week from 10 - 15 June 2024. A range of activities were organised centred about the issues of health and workplace safety. Participants were from schools and general public and it provided students with hands-on learning experiences, allowing them to connect academic knowledge with practical community service.



## 4 Achievements

The OSH Awareness Week 2024 has been a great success, in terms of achieving its objective of spreading awareness about health and workplace safety to the community. In the long-run, the impacts from this awareness could shift the mindset about OSH among the community.



## 2 OSH Awareness Week

Activities during OSH Awareness Week:

1. Safety Begins With Concerns Booth
2. OSH Fun Run
3. First Aid Awareness
4. Mental Health Talk
5. Fire Safety & Demonstration
6. OSH Food Festival



## 3 Impacts of the project

The program had significant impacts on students and participants:

- (i) Raises awareness about workplace hazards, mental health, and overall well-being, helping individuals recognise risks and take preventive actions;
- (ii) Raises awareness of common workplace dangers, encouraging proactive measures to prevent accidents and injuries;
- (iii) Greater community engagement - Promotes discussions and collaborations between employees, employers, students, and the public, fostering a shared responsibility for health and safety.
- (iv) Long term cultural shift - Promotes long-term behavioral changes where health and safety become everyday priorities in workplaces, schools, and homes.



## 5

### Lecturer

Awang Mashabi Awang Mohamad



# Head, Heart and Hands to Bring About Change

SSS3074: Fieldwork Practice

## 1 Introduction

The Social Work Programme conducted their Service Learning Malaysia (SULAM) element via an integration in the SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice course. This course is designed for the final-year students and is supervised by Dr Dolly Paul Carlo, as the course coordinator, and Dr Athirah Azhar. It involves students' placement at various agencies in Kuching and Samarahan area. Each placement involves four to five students and they attended their placements once a week (from 8 am to 4 pm, every Thursday) over the period of one semester. This opportunity allows students to engage directly with clients at a level that matches their abilities and the duration of their placement.



## 3 Impacts of the project

This course and SULAM projects has helped students develop their assessment skills, practice of social work values, applying theory in practice, and self-awareness in doing social work. Besides, the SULAM projects executed by the students have benefitted to both the agency and targeted groups.



## 4 Achievements

It is one of the ways for FSSH to produce future ready graduates, who are versatile individuals with a combination of knowledge, technical skills, cognitive abilities and personal attributes that empower them in the VUCA world. This class focuses on reflection and discussion based on their experiences at the agencies.



## 2 SULAM Projects

1. Inspirasi Tanpa Bunyi: Kenali Persatuan Orang-orang Pekak Sarawak (13 June 2024)
2. An Obedient Army Brings Change (13 June 2024)
3. Program Dinamika DBDKu (20 June 2024)
4. Golden Hands Craft Creatives Project (20 June 2024)
5. Menanam Harapan dan Ketenangan (20 June 2024)
6. Bersama Untuk Semua: Lebih Dekat Lebih Prihatin (20 June 2024)
7. Kesihatan dan Pemakanan Seimbang (20 June 2024)
8. Sayangi Diri Anda: Sentuhan Selamat dan Tidak Selamat (20 June 2024)
9. Ruang Wira Anak Muda (20 June 2024)
10. Journey in Humanitarian (20 June 2024)



## 5

### Lecturer

Dr Dolly Paul Carlo  
Dr Athirah Azhar



# Master in Environmental Management (Development Planning)

## SLUSE Interdisciplinary Fieldcourse 2024



### What is SLUSE?

SLUSE-M (SLUSE-Malaysia) is a capacity-building academic programme for the promotion of sustainable land use and natural resource management in Malaysia. The programme is modelled on a parallel programme initiated by a Danish consortium of universities in Denmark (SLUSE-Denmark). SLUSE-M has been running in UNIMAS since the year 2000, reflecting the sustainability of the programme.

### Date

4th March until 15th March 2024

### Participants

1. Thirty (30) students from countries within and outside Europe including Denmark, Spain, Germany, Canada, Norway, Austria, Poland, USA, Switzerland and Bangladesh, who are pursuing their Master's degrees at the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University.
2. Thirty-five (35) of UNIMAS students.
3. Ten (10) resource persons from UNIMAS.
4. Three (3) from Denmark



Students were divided into six groups and each group, consisting of Malaysian and Danish students, was assigned to respective villages within Balai Ringin, Gedong, Pantu and Sri Aman districts. The data for their research were obtained using interdisciplinary approaches which are the combination of methods of social sciences and natural sciences; e.g. participatory rural appraisal (PRA), rapid rural appraisal (RRA), water and soil sampling and forest resource assessment.



### Coordinators

Associate Professor Dr Wong Swee Kiong (FSSH)  
Dr Jeffrine Rovie Ryan Japning (FRST)  
Professor Dr Ole Mertz (Denmark)

Collaborators: Kampung Semada, Kampung Jaong, Kampung Empelanjau Asal, Kampung Kara Atas, Kampung Gua Dunggat



# Collaboration with Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)

## *Development Planning & Management Programme*



The Development Planning and Management (DPM) Programme collaborated with the Regional Planning and Development Unit, Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), and Sarawak Cultural Village in a programme called the DPM Fresh Start 2024. A total of 141 first-year students, 16 UPP committee members, and 4 accompanying lecturers participated in this one-day programme.

Its primary focus was to promote sustainability, enhance social well-being, foster professional development, and strengthen community networks. Through carefully curated activities, the programme aims to instill key values in students while providing practical insights into sustainable urban and community development, aligning with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Mr. Nikk Adam bin Abdillah Kipali, Manager of the Regional Planning and Development Unit at SEDC, delivered an inspiring session on self-potential and personal growth. He emphasized the importance of adaptability, self-discipline, and setting achievable targets as cornerstones for success in academic and professional pursuits. His motivational insights resonated deeply with participants, encouraging them to align their personal ambitions with their roles in sustainable community development.

A highlight of the programme was the 'My Dream City' activity, where students worked in groups to design a sustainable urban space from both physical and socio-economic perspectives. The exercise encouraged creativity and critical thinking, exposing students to real-world challenges in urban planning and development. Students presented their ideas, demonstrating innovative approaches to integrating sustainability within community planning.



Person in-charge: Dr Farah Zaini (Programme Co-ordinator)



# Collaboration with Grab Malaysia

## Development Planning & Management Programme



In an inspiring collaboration between Grab Malaysia, Open Street Map (OSM), and the Development Planning and Management Programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), the Grab GeoStars x UNIMAS 2024 programme has successfully equipped students with crucial map editing skills and practical applications of these technologies.

Running from May to June 2024, the programme focused on developing students' technical abilities in map editing using the OSM and Map Your City (MYC) platforms. Participants were tasked with improving data accuracy and contributions to these platforms, fostering a spirit of healthy competition and excellence. To enhance the value of their learning, participation in this programme was also part of the assessment for the course SSR2093: Introduction to Remote Sensing, integrating practical skills with academic learning.



Before they began with their tasks, participants received comprehensive online training. The first training on OSM Data Improvement was led by Mr. Mikko Tamura from OSM Philippines. This session provided students with the skills needed to enhance OSM data. The second training, i.e. MYC Data Input, was conducted by Ms. Shafiqah Zaini from Grab Malaysia, and the session focused on the specifics of inputting data into the MYC platform. After that, participants were given two weeks to complete all the tasks.

The closing ceremony for the Grab GeoStars x UNIMAS 2024 programme was held on June 20, 2024. The momentous occasion was attended by representatives from Grab HQ, Ms Maryam Abu Bakar and Mr Haziq Ekhwan, and representative from OSM, Mr Ahmad Kamal Effendy.

Representatives from OSM and Grab provided feedback on the students' editing skills, highlighting areas of excellence and suggesting opportunities for further development. The event also featured a knowledge transfer session and a Karta Cam demonstration by two invited Grab drivers, Mr Maizun and Mr Azmi, adding practical industry perspectives to the celebration.



"The Grab GeoStars x UNIMAS 2024 programme is a testament to the power of collaboration between academia and industry. By equipping students with relevant skills and knowledge, we are preparing them to effectively contribute to their respective fields and face future challenges with confidence".

Dr Farah Zaini

Person in-charge:  
Dr Farah Zaini (Programme Co-ordinator)



# Collaboration with Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) Sarawak

## *Industrial Relations and Labour Studies Programme*



The Industrial Relations and Labour Studies Programme has been actively engaging with the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) Sarawak throughout 2024.

On Saturday, November 16, third-year students from the Industrial Relations and Employment Program (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UNIMAS) had the privilege of attending a Trade Union Management course organized by the Sarawak Department of Trade Union Affairs (JHEKS) in collaboration with the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) Sarawak Division.

This invitation provided a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to trade union management and the latest updates on amendments to the Malaysian Trade Union Act. As students, we explored the practical realities of trade union activities across various industries, broadening our understanding of workplace dynamics and labor rights.

The course offered a platform for students and lecturers to engage with union representatives, learn from their experiences, and build meaningful connections with affiliates of Malaysian trade unions in Sarawak. Discussions during the event highlighted the critical role of the Trade Union Committee Council in safeguarding workers' rights and managing the welfare of union members, offering insights into its functions and responsibilities.



On November 1, 2024, two alumni of the Industrial Relations and Labour Studies (IRLS) program at UNIMAS were honored with awards in conjunction with tUNIMAS' 28th Convocation. These awards, including the Student's Excellence Award, were sponsored by the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) Sarawak Division, marking a historic milestone as the first-ever industry-sponsored awards for IRLS graduates. Ummy Shafikah Binti Ismandy received the Togetherness and Unity Award, while Wilson Lusat Joseph was awarded the Holistic Excellence Award. This collaboration between MTUC and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) highlights the significance of industrial relations and trade unionism in shaping future professionals in the field. The event featured speeches by Program Coordinator Madam Dayang Asmah Binti Awang Hamdan and MTUC Sarawak Division Chairman Tuan Haji Zaidi bin Nasar, both expressing gratitude for the collaboration that made the ceremony a meaningful and successful occasion.

Person in-charge: Dayang Asmah Awang Hamdan (Programme Co-ordinator) & Awang Mashabi Awang Mohamad

**Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement) @ 2024**



# Collaboration with Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR)

## *International Relations Programme*

On 27 June 2024, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) had the honour of hosting a delegation from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) led by its esteemed Director, Dato Westmoreland Palon. The entourage also includes IDFR officers and 14 participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD). This visit marked a significant collaboration between IDFR and the students of the International Relations Programme at FSSH. The event included an insightful sharing session on Diplomatic Career Paths (Perkongsian Kerjaya) by the DiD participants, who are junior Malaysian diplomats currently undergoing intensive diplomatic training.



In his address, Dato Westmoreland Palon introduced IDFR as a vital division serving as a training arm under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He emphasized that the Institute offers comprehensive training for Malaysian diplomats in diplomacy, international relations, soft skills, and foreign languages. Dato Westmoreland Palon also expressed confidence that the activities led by IDFR involving FSSH students will undoubtedly be exposing them to career opportunities within the Malaysian foreign service.



The participants from IDFR imparted invaluable insights for a career in foreign service to an engaged audience of 80 students from the International Relations Programme, FSSH. These joint-activities are aimed to enrich the learning experience for all involved which also complemented their classroom learning with real-world diplomacy.



Participants gained valuable knowledge about the nature of work, their duties, roles, and responsibilities as diplomats from the sharing session. The two-hour activities with students encompassed career sharing, Diplomatic Debate, and quizzes.



The visit and joint-activities showcased the exceptional synergy between IDFR and UNIMAS, promising a compelling platform for mutual academic and industry experiences. It should be noted that similar collaborations and activities have been carried out by the two institutions in 2018, when IDFR was led by Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany.

Person in-charge: Dr Shafina Tantiana Zulkipli (Programme Co-ordinator)



# Global Engagement

## Politics and Government Studies Programme & FISIP, UNTAN

A group of 36 third year students from the Politics and Government Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities went across the border for a mobility programme. The four-day educational visit to Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik (FISIP), Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN), Pontianak, Indonesia was organised by the Political and Governmental Studies Society (Polgov) and Professor Dr. Neilson Ilan Mersat served as its advisor.



The educational visit aims to strengthen international ties and enhance student engagement between the two institutions. A number of activities were conducted in collaboration with their UNTAN counterparts – Himpunan Mahasiswa Ilmu Politik (HIMAPOL) and Himpunan Mahasiswa Ilmu Pemerintahan (HIMAPEM). The highlight was the academic seminar on International Bureaucracy of Malaysia and Indonesia. Ms. Nur Najwa Atira binti Nor Rihan represented UNIMAS, while the other speakers were from FISIP UNTAN.

Another sharing session was conducted with the Provincial People's Representative Council of West Kalimantan (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Provinsi Kalimantan Barat). The session aimed to facilitate an exchange of insights and experiences regarding government and politics in Malaysia and Indonesia. By discussing governance structure, political systems, and policy frameworks, participants sought to deepen understanding, foster collaboration, and strengthen diplomatic ties between the two regions. This dialogue provided valuable perspectives, identified areas for potential cooperation, and promoted mutual learning in the realm of governance and politics.

Other than academic programme, the participants engaged in various activities, including a community outreach initiative at Panti Asuhan Ar Ridho, a visit to the Museum Kalimantan Barat, and an international cultural night for cross-cultural exposure. Both sides showcased their cultural performance, enhancing mutual understanding and appreciation.

Person in-charge: Dr Leha Saliman (Programme Co-ordinator)



# Global Engagement

*Antropology & Sociology Programme & FKIP, UNTAN*

The Kuliah Kerja Lapangan (Field Work Study) by History Education students from the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP), Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN), to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS, on August 20, 2024, was a significant milestone in the growing academic collaboration between the two institutions. This partnership reflects FSSH's commitment to fostering international engagement and cross-cultural learning opportunities.



Held at the FSSH Conference Room, the event brought together scholars, students, and faculty members in a dynamic exchange of knowledge, cultural perspectives, and academic experiences. The UNTAN delegation, comprising three lecturers and 24 students from FKIP, engaged in discussions and activities aimed at strengthening research and educational ties between the two universities. This collaboration not only enhances academic networking but also promotes a deeper understanding of regional histories, cultures, and social dynamics.

Haris Firmansyah, a lecturer from the History Education Program at FKIP UNTAN, delivered an interesting presentation titled "Mengenal Kota Pontianak: Toponimi dan Perkembangan Pemukimannya." His lecture provided valuable insights into the history of Pontianak, examining its toponymy and settlement patterns while shedding light on the socio-cultural forces that have shaped the city's development over time.



Dr Juna Liau, FSSH, then did a sharing on "Masyarakat Sempadan Kalimantan-Sarawak," exploring the cultural, social, and economic interactions of cross-border communities. She highlighted the fluidity of borders and shared heritage that transcends national boundaries, offering an anthropological perspective on their lived experiences.

This is followed by Dr Sharifah Sophia Wan Ahmad with a sharing on a historical overview of the "Pergerakan Anti Penyerahan di Sarawak 1946-1951." Her presentation delved into the anti-cession movement in Sarawak, highlighting the local resistance against British colonial rule.

The visit benefited both universities: UNTAN students and faculty gained exposure to new academic perspectives, while UNIMAS strengthened research through knowledge exchange and regional cultural insights. It also raised hopes for continued academic collaboration in the coming years.

Person in-charge: Dayang Hajrayati binti Awg Kassim (Programme Co-ordinator)

**Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement) @ 2024**





At the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, we believe in the power of collaboration to drive meaningful impact. Through active engagement with communities, we support grassroots initiatives, social innovation, and capacity-building efforts that address local challenges.

From community-based research to outreach programmes and knowledge-sharing activities, we work alongside our community and industry partners to create inclusive and sustainable progress.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our Faculty and our experts. Join us in making a difference—because together, we are partners for social change.