

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

COMMUNITY & INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

VOL 4 (DECEMBER 2025)

Disclaimer

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COMMUNITY & INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

VOL 4 (DECEMBER 2025)

PREPARED BY
DEPUTY DEAN (INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT) OFFICE

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SECTION 1
WELCOME MESSAGES







FOREWORD

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera

Welcome to the 4th volume of the FSSH Community & Industrial Engagement Update.

This year, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) has truly embodied our tagline: “*A Partner for Social Change*”. By moving beyond the classroom, our staff and students have created a tangible social impact, guided by our core values – Responsive, Versatile, and Inclusive.

This year’s achievements centers on three key pillars:

Community Empowerment – Bridging academic learning with rural development through initiatives like Kampung Angkat MADANI, SULAM and CARE projects.

Industrial Linkages – Collaborating with agencies such as JTS, SPR, AKM and BHESS to produce industry-ready leaders in governance and policy.

Global Mobility – Strengthening regional ties and fostering global citizenship through programs with Universitas Indonesia (UI), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and Vietnam.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement) Office, our academic and administration team and our strategic partners. Your commitment allows FSSH to continue transforming lives and celebrating diversity.

Let us move into 2026 with a renewed spirit of collaboration and a continued heart for community service!

Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah
Dean

EDITORIAL NOTES

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera

This year edition serves as a curated record of our faculty's vibrant activities throughout the whole Year 2025. From the grassroots programmes like Program Kampung Angkat MADANI, CARE and SULAM projects to high-level strategic visits as well as international mobility programs, this bulletin captures our commitment to being "A Partner for Social Change."

The purpose of this bulletin is to highlight the synergy between academic expertise and real-world application through various programmes and activities conducted. By documenting these journeys, we celebrate the resilience of our communities, the trust of our industrial partners and the growth of our students as future-ready leaders.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all faculty members that have greatly contributed, hence shared their stories. I hope this bulletin will inspire continued engagement and collaboration as we move into Year 2026.

Thank you.

Dr Khalid bin Zanudin

Deputy Dean (Industry and Community Engagement)



SECTION 2
**FSSH TAGLINE
& CORE VALUE**





FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

A Partner for Social Change

FSSH celebrates differences, embrace diversity and inspire transformation. We are a partner that lays down a legacy of social transformation through teaching and learning, rigorous research and active engagement that will benefit generations to come.

1

FSSH as a proactive partner within the broader community-centric mission of the university. The faculty showcase projects and initiatives that drive social change in collaboration with the community.

2

FSSH's research, programs, and activities are directly aligned and support the university's commitment to being driven by the needs and aspirations of the community.

3

FSSH's efforts and initiative have led to tangible social change within the community.

FSSH CORE VALUE

Inclusive

We ensure that everyone, regardless of background, has equal opportunities and feels valued.

Responsive

We actively listening to and addressing the needs and concerns of the community and stakeholders.

Versatile

We are adaptable and capable of handling a variety of tasks and challenges efficiently.

SECTION 3
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: GOTONG-ROYONG BERSAMA MASJID DARUL SOLIHIN, KAMPUNG TELAGA AIR

1st March 2025 | Masjid Darul Solihin, Kampung Telaga Air, Jalan Matang, Kuching.

Overview

The Industrial Relations and Employment Programme (FSSH), UNIMAS, successfully organized a meaningful community outreach program at Masjid Darul Solihin, Kampung Telaga Air. This initiative was designed to strengthen the bonds between the university and the local community through collective action and social support. The event was honored by the presence of YB Datuk Dr. Hj Abdul Rahman bin Hj Junaidi and Datin Hajah Siti Shorgayah binti Haji Ahmad Zaidi, who officiated the proceedings and participated in the volunteer activities alongside the residents.

The Highlights

The program brought together approximately 50 local residents and a dedicated team of 10 lecturers and students from UNIMAS. The core activity involved a "gotong-royong" session focused on cleaning and beautifying the mosque premises, fostering a shared sense of responsibility for the community's spiritual hub. In addition to the physical cleanup, the program included the distribution of aid baskets to local families and the ceremonial presentation of the Quran to the mosque, integrating environmental maintenance with charitable welfare.

Impacts to the Community

This engagement provided a clean and conducive environment for worship while offering essential support to the residents of Kampung Telaga Air through the distribution of aid. For the students of the Industrial Relations and Employment Programme, the program served as a practical learning platform. By managing the logistics and interacting with diverse stakeholders, students sharpened their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. This synergy reinforces the university's role as an active contributor to social well-being, bridging the gap between academic life and grassroots needs.



Feedback and Commitment

The local community and mosque committee expressed deep appreciation for the effort, noting that such collaborations are vital for community resilience. The initiative directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). FSSH remains committed to fostering sustainable partnerships that empower local communities and prepare students to become socially responsible leaders.



USR PROJECT – SESI PERKONGSIAN BERKENAAN KEPENTINGAN KELESTARIAN BUDAYA DAN KRAFTANGAN TEMPATAN

15th April 2025 | Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Bagiau, Bintulu

Overview

This University Social Responsibility (USR) project was conducted as an educational sharing session centered on cultural sustainability. The program was designed to raise awareness and understanding among the students and teachers of Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Bagiau regarding the preservation of local cultural heritage and the importance of sustaining traditional crafts.

The Highlights

The session featured knowledge-sharing and motivational talks led by Dr. Nur Auni Ugong and Dr. Daniel Ugih Echoh. They highlighted essential values, including Cultural identity and its importance. Intergenerational transmission of knowledge. Sustainable community development through heritage.

Impacts to the Community

Students: The program successfully raised awareness and pride in local culture while introducing students to basic traditional craft skills and appreciation.

Teachers: Educators gained additional cultural knowledge useful for classroom activities and enhanced their roles as cultural ambassadors within formal education.

“..to raise awareness among the younger generation on the importance of preserving cultural heritage”



Feedback and Commitment

The session was highly well-received; participants expressed significant interest in attending future workshops that offer hands-on exposure to traditional craft-making. This project demonstrates UNIMAS' ongoing commitment to community-based education and the promotion of cultural sustainability.



PROGRAM KOMUNITI SISWA MADANI: "SATU HATI, SATU TINDAKAN"

11th May 2025 | Kampung Asajaya Laut

Overview

In the spirit of civic engagement and volunteerism, the Social Work Association of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (SWAS UNIMAS) successfully organized the "Program Komuniti Siswa Madani: Satu Hati, Satu Tindakan." Held in conjunction with the Festival of Social Sciences and Humanities (FOSSH) 2025, this initiative brought together 88 students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) to translate academic values into practical community service. Under the guidance of Dr. Nur Auni binti Ugong and Dr. Athirah binti Azhar, the program focused on empowering students to contribute meaningfully to society while deepening their sense of social responsibility.

The Highlights

The outreach effort was characterized by a diverse range of activities designed to foster university-community bonds. A key highlight was the "gotong-royong" clean-up activity, where students and residents of Kampung Asajaya Laut worked side-by-side to improve the local environment. Beyond physical labor, the program included health education sessions to enhance public awareness of hygiene and wellness, as well as cultural appreciation segments that celebrated local heritage. These activities were designed to equip students with practical project management skills while grounding them in the professional ethics of social work.

Impacts to the Community

The initiative provided immediate benefits to the residents of Kampung Asajaya Laut through improved community cleanliness and health literacy. For the students, the program served as a transformative learning experience, allowing them to apply academic theories to real-world community dynamics and socio-cultural diversity. By working directly with villagers, students gained a deeper understanding of the socio-economic factors affecting rural communities. This partnership successfully aligned local actions with global goals, specifically contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Feedback and Commitment

The program received a warm reception and strong support from the villagers, who highly valued the students' collaborative spirit and dedication. This initiative stands as a testament to the "UNIMAS Lestari" vision—bridging knowledge and service to shape a more inclusive future. FSSH remains committed to nurturing future-ready, socially conscious graduates who are prepared to contribute actively to national development and community empowerment.



SULAM PROJECT: ASPIRING LEADERS – YOUNG VOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

23rd May 2025 | Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Nibong

Overview

Group 1 students from the Politics of the Developing World course, under the International Relations Program (FSSH), successfully conducted their community-based SULAM project titled "Aspiring Leaders: Young Voices for a Better Future." This initiative, held at SK Bukit Nibong, was designed to bridge the gap between academic theories of governance and practical civic education, targeting the next generation of leaders in their formative years.

The Highlights

Led by course coordinator Madam Dayangku Norasyikin Awang Tejuddin, the project mobilized 42 university facilitators to engage with 67 enthusiastic participants from Primary 4 to Primary 6. The program featured a series of interactive modules and knowledge-sharing sessions focused on civic awareness and fundamental leadership qualities. By simplifying complex political and social concepts into digestible, age-appropriate activities, the facilitators encouraged the young students to find their "voices" and understand their potential roles in community building.

Impacts to the Community

The project provided the students of SK Bukit Nibong with a rare opportunity to engage with university-level mentors, broadening their horizons and instilling a sense of agency. Participants emerged with a clearer understanding of leadership, empowered to become proactive change-makers within their own school and community environments. For the International Relations students, the SULAM framework allowed them to apply their understanding of development and social structures to a grassroots setting, sharpening their communication and community organization skills.



Feedback and Commitment

The school administration at SK Bukit Nibong expressed deep appreciation for the program, noting the high level of engagement and energy brought by the UNIMAS facilitators. This initiative reinforces the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities' dedication to the University for Society (SULAM) mission, ensuring that education serves as a tool for social empowerment and the cultivation of future-ready leaders.

CARE PROJECT – ENHANCING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND PREVENTING CRIME THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

23rd May 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Overview

The CARE Project, under the Deviance and Rehabilitation Services course, was successfully implemented by Year 3 Social Work students under the guidance of Dr Kamsiah Ali. This immersive initiative required students to spend three days working directly within a target community to assess social conditions and crime prevention dynamics. By bridging classroom theory with real-world practice, the project focuses on the underlying precursors to crime such as drug abuse, mental health challenges, and emotional distress to foster community safety and social cohesion.

The Highlights

The project featured a comprehensive series of educational talks and a mini-exhibition aimed at raising awareness and providing resources to at-risk populations. Key sessions included:

Mental Health & Drugs: Dr. Dolly Paul Carlo (FSSH) discussed the critical link between substance abuse and mental health deterioration.

Youth Focus: Mr. Salleh Bin Sulaiman (AADK Samarahan) addressed the specific challenges of drug abuse among teenagers.

Collective Responsibility: Mr. Abdul Hamediee Bin Ibrahim (Director of AADK Sarawak) emphasized that a "Drug-Free Generation" requires a unified community effort.

Students also engaged with the Royal Malaysia Police, medical professionals, and local NGOs to explore both institutional and alternative rehabilitation methods, gaining a multifaceted view of recovery and justice.

Impacts to the Community

The initiative targeted individuals and families vulnerable to drug-related crime, providing them with direct access to support systems and rehabilitation resources. For the residents, the project increased awareness of the ripple effects of addiction, such as family breakdown and economic instability. For the students, the project was transformative; it strengthened their understanding of primary prevention and early intervention. By examining the social and economic drivers of deviant behavior, students transitioned from academic learners to "change agents" equipped with the ethics and intervention strategies necessary for professional social work.

Feedback and Commitment

Aligning with the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) HTPT 2025 – Sejahtera MADANI and the "1 IPT : 1 District" initiative, this program reflects UNIMAS's agenda. Student reflections highlighted that the project broadened their understanding of complex social contexts, preparing them to handle real-world challenges with integrity.



SULAM PROJECT – PRESERVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION IN ACTION

30th May 2025 | Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Santubong, Kuching

Overview

A total of 132 second-year students from the Anthropology and Sociology Program successfully implemented a community service initiative themed "Preserving Archaeological Heritage: Community and Education in Action" at SMK Santubong. This program was part of the Service Learning Malaysia – University for Society (SULAM) framework for the SSF2193 Introduction to Borneo Archaeology course, under the guidance of Dr. Nur Auni Ugong. The project was made possible through close collaboration with the Sarawak Museum Department and the Sarawak Delta Geopark.

The Highlights

The program focused on the vital intersection of historical education and community stewardship. Students conducted interactive sessions designed to transfer academic knowledge of Borneo's archaeological significance to the younger generation at SMK Santubong. By working alongside heritage experts from the Sarawak Museum Department, the university students were able to demonstrate the practical value of archaeology in defining regional identity and the importance of preserving the Sarawak Delta Geopark's cultural landscape.

Impacts to the Community

This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Higher Education's (KPT) aspiration under KPT Inspirasi Fokus 3: Knowledge Transfer and Sharing, as outlined in the Higher Education Roadmap 2025 (HTPT 2025). The local community and students at SMK Santubong gained a deeper appreciation for their historical surroundings, fostering a sense of pride and a collective responsibility toward heritage preservation. For the UNIMAS students, the SULAM experience provided a platform to develop leadership and communication skills while applying theoretical archaeological concepts to real-world community advocacy.



Feedback and Commitment

The project was highly praised for its ability to strengthen the collaborative network between academia, industry, and the public. This success reinforces FSSH's commitment to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by prioritizing multi-sectoral cooperation. The faculty remains dedicated to ensuring that cultural and historical knowledge is not confined to the classroom but is shared meaningfully to build a more informed and culturally conscious society.

POLGOV COMMUNITY SERVICE COLLABORATION: REACH OUT QURBAN AIDILADHA

8th June 2025 | Surau Darul Amal, Kampung Semariang Pinggir

Overview

The Politics and Government program, in collaboration with The Nexgen Youth Movement, successfully organized a community service initiative titled "Reach Out Qurban Aidiladha." Supported by the P194 Petra Jaya Parliamentary Service Centre, this program aimed to celebrate the spirit of sacrifice and community service while strengthening the ties between youth movements, academic institutions and local residents.

The Highlights

The event was honored by the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who officiated the program and participated in the symbolic meat-cutting ceremony. More than 60 participants, including local villagers and a dedicated team of 10 volunteers from UNIMAS—consisting of a lecturer and Polgov students—worked together in the ritual of Qurban. Beyond the religious observance, the activity served as a practical workshop where students and new volunteers were guided through the traditional and technical aspects of carrying out a sacrifice, from the ritual itself to the organized distribution of meat to the residents of Kampung Semariang Pinggir.

Impacts to the Community

This initiative provided direct support to the villagers of Semariang Pinggir, ensuring the equitable distribution of meat in celebration of Aidiladha. For the Polgov students and volunteers, the program offered invaluable hands-on experience in community organizing and traditional customs, which are essential components of social and political engagement. By working side-by-side with community members and high-level government representatives, the students developed a deeper sense of civic duty and improved their interpersonal skills.



Feedback and Commitment

The presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and the active participation of the villagers highlighted the success of this grassroots collaboration. FSSH and the Polgov program remain committed to fostering such partnerships that promote social cohesion and provide students with real-world opportunities to serve the public. This initiative reinforces the faculty's mission to be an active "Partner for Social Change" through meaningful community-based programs.

SULAM PROJECT – UNDI18 BRIDGEWORKS – EMPOWERING TVET YOUTH FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

11th June 2025 | Sarawak Skills, Kuching

Overview

In response to Malaysia's UNDI18 policy, final-year Politics and Government Studies (PolGov) students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) launched "UNDI18 BridgeWorks." This full-day interactive workshop was organized in collaboration with Sarawak Skills Kuching and supported by the Youth Empowerment Society (YES) Sarawak, Rise of Sarawak Efforts (ROSE), and Pertiwi Progresif (PRO). The initiative aimed to bridge the gap between academic political theory and real-world democratic engagement for 48 TVET students aged 18 to 25.

The Highlights

The workshop featured hands-on civic education through democracy simulations and leadership-building activities. A central highlight was a dynamic panel discussion featuring Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arnold Puyok (Deputy Dean of FSSH), Mr. Geoffrey Tang (ROSE), Mr. Melvin Jangga (YES Sarawak), Mr. Nohvendraraaj A/L Ganesan (PolGov student representative), and youth activist Mr. Ivan Alexander Ong. The session provided a platform for participants to explore the importance of electoral participation and discuss the unique challenges faced by first-time voters, transforming them from passive observers into informed constituents.

Impacts to the Community

The project successfully equipped TVET youth with critical thinking skills and political literacy, fostering a "Sejahtera MADANI" society where technical expertise is balanced with civic responsibility. By focusing on vocational students, the initiative addressed a crucial demographic in the democratic process. For the UNIMAS PolGov students, the project facilitated the "1 IPT : 1 Daerah" initiative, allowing them to lead community development efforts and strengthen the collaboration between academia, civil society, and local technical institutions.



Feedback and Commitment

Encik Hallman Bin Haji Sabri, Executive Director of Sarawak Skills, emphasized that technical education must include an awareness of the civic landscape to build future changemakers. This SULAM program aligns with the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) Hala Tuju Pendidikan Tinggi 2025 (HTPT 2025) and UNIMAS's UniversCities agenda, which focuses on the university's role in regional transformation. FSSH remains committed to knowledge transfer and sharing, ensuring that Sarawakian youth are confident and motivated to engage in the nation's democratic future.

CARE PROJECT – SOCIAL WORK FIELDWORK PRACTICE

Semester 2, 2024/2025 | Various Social Welfare Agencies in Sarawak

Overview

As a core component of the third-year Social Work Programme, the CARE Project was successfully integrated into the SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice course. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Dolly Paul Carlo and Dr. Athirah Azhar, students embarked on an intensive nine-week placement across ten prominent social welfare agencies. This initiative was designed to immerse future social workers in diverse professional environments, allowing them to provide direct support to some of the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The Highlights

The project facilitated a comprehensive outreach effort targeting a wide spectrum of groups, including children, the elderly, individuals with special needs, single mothers, the homeless, teenagers, and people facing mental health challenges. The students were stationed at various key institutions, namely:

- Pusat Pemulihan Samarahan and Sekolah Tunas Bakti
- Rumah Kanak-Kanak and Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Bahagian Samarahan
- Rumah Seri Kenangan and Desa Bina Diri
- Halfway Home and The Salvation Army
- Sarawak Deaf Society and Hope Place

Throughout the nine weeks, students applied professional social work principles to provide counseling, activity coordination, and administrative support, ensuring that the specific needs of each target group were addressed with empathy and clinical precision.

Impacts to the Community

The presence of UNIMAS students provided a vital boost to the human resource capacities of the participating agencies, enabling more personalized care and a wider range of activities for the residents and clients. For the students, this fieldwork served as a transformative professional experience, bridging the gap between theoretical social work ethics and the realities of human service. They gained deep insights into the systemic challenges faced by vulnerable communities, emerging with enhanced competency in case management, communication, and social advocacy.

Feedback and Commitment

The collaboration between the Social Work Programme and these ten agencies has been hailed as a model for effective professional training and community support. FSSH remains dedicated to its mission as "A Partner for Social Change," continuing to nurture social work graduates who are not only academically qualified but also deeply attuned to the heartbeat of the community.



CARE PROJECT SSS3074 – COMMUNITY BONDS FOR SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING

26th June 2025 | Various Community Agencies in Sarawak

Overview

The Social Work Program successfully implemented the CARE Project titled "Community Bonds for Sustainable Well-being" throughout Semester 2 of the 2024/2025 academic session. Integrated into the SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice course, this large-scale initiative was designed to immerse students in professional social work environments, focusing on the development of resilient community ties and the enhancement of social welfare across various vulnerable populations.

The Highlights

Throughout the semester, students were deployed to engage with a diverse range of target groups, including children, the homeless, individuals facing mental health challenges, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and the elderly. This was made possible through strategic partnerships with a wide array of government and non-governmental agencies. Key collaborating partners included The Salvation Army, Desa Bina Diri, Halfway Home, Rumah Seri Kenangan, and the Sarawak Society for the Deaf. Additionally, students collaborated with the Samarahan District Welfare Office (JKM) through the Children's Activity Center, as well as Sekolah Tunas Bakti, the Samarahan Rehabilitation Center, PERKATA, and Hope Place. These engagements involved direct intervention, case management support, and the organization of psychosocial activities tailored to the specific needs of each group.

Impacts to the Community

This project provided significant social support to the participating agencies, augmenting their capacity to serve their respective clients through student-led initiatives and professional assistance. For the target groups, the presence and activities of the students contributed to improved emotional well-being and a stronger sense of social inclusion. Simultaneously, for the Social Work students, this fieldwork served as a critical bridge between theoretical classroom learning and professional practice. It allowed them to develop core competencies in empathy, ethical decision-making, and community advocacy, ensuring they are prepared to serve as effective change agents in the social service sector.



Feedback and Commitment

The participating agencies highly valued the contribution of the UNIMAS Social Work students, noting that the "Community Bonds" project brought fresh energy and specialized support to their daily operations. By placing students at the heart of community challenges, the faculty continues to foster a sustainable ecosystem of care and support for the most vulnerable members of society.



SULAM PROJECT – THERE IS ‘US’ IN SUSTAINABILITY – FROM USED COOKING OIL TO ECO-SOAP

14th June 2025 | Kampung Giam, Padawan

Overview

Final-year International Relations (IR) students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) demonstrated that meaningful diplomacy often begins at the grassroots level. As part of the SSA3234 Politics of the Developing World course, 42 students organized the "Projek Komuniti IR Prihatin" in Kampung Giam, Padawan. In collaboration with the local Women's Bureau, the initiative aimed to transform environmental theory into community action by addressing the hazards of improper waste disposal.

The Highlights

Led by Project Head Miss Irene Valerie Nasod and advisor Hajah Noor'ain Aini, the program drew the participation of 25 local women for a day of intensive knowledge transfer. The highlight of the event was a hands-on soap-making workshop conducted by the UNIMAS Social Innovation Team, led by Hajah Siti Haslina Hussin. Participants were taught the science of recycling used cooking oil into biodegradable eco-soap. This practical session combined environmental briefings with skill-building, providing the community with a tangible method to mitigate the ecological damage caused by pouring used oil into drainage systems.



Impacts to the Community

The project resulted in the immediate recycling of over 16 liters of used cooking oil, preventing significant environmental harm. For the Women's Bureau of Kampung Giam, the workshop was described as an "eye-opener," shifting their perspective on household waste. The project not only fostered environmental stewardship but also sowed the seeds for a potential home-based industry, empowering local women with a new craft that promotes financial and ecological sustainability. For the IR students, the engagement proved that sustainability is a lived reality, allowing them to bridge the gap between classroom concepts and meaningful social change.

"..aimed to transform environmental theory into community action by addressing the hazards of improper waste disposal.."

Feedback and Commitment

The project received high praise from local leaders. Samen Sanggod, Head of the Development Committee, noted the value of the collaboration and expressed interest in advanced training, while Jennifer Atok, Head of the Women's Bureau, expressed her hope to make eco-soap production a flagship initiative for the village. Hajah Noor'ain Aini concluded the project by emphasizing that small-scale community engagement is the foundation for lasting global impact.



SULAM PROJECT - "THERE IS 'US' IN SUSTAINABILITY - FROM PAPER TO PAPER"

14th June 2025 | Kampung Giam, Padawan

Overview

On 14th June 2025, twenty primary school children in Kampung Giam, Padawan, participated in a Service Learning Malaysia (SULAM) project titled "There is 'Us' in Sustainability: From Paper to Paper." The initiative was organized by students from the Politics of the Developing World course under the International Relations Program, FSSH, UNIMAS. The project aimed to educate the younger generation on the importance of recycling and reducing paper waste in their daily lives.

The Highlights

The core activity featured the 'Re-Pap' workshop, a hands-on process of transforming used paper into fresh, decorative sheets for daily notes or crafts. Under the guidance of Program Head Nurul Nazeirah bt Md Azam and the project team, participants learned a step-by-step recycling method:

- **Soaking:** Submerging used paper until it breaks down into pulp.
- **Filtering & Shaping:** Sifting the pulp to form new sheets.
- **Drying:** Sun-drying the sheets until firm.
- **Decorating:** Using individual creativity to design the final product.

Impacts to the Community

The project directly addressed the low awareness of paper recycling in Malaysia. According to course lecturer Puan Noor'ain Aini, paper waste accounted for approximately 17% of total landfill waste in 2024, yet the recycling rate for paper remains low at 37.9%. By engaging children, the program nurtures a "sustainability-literate" rural community.



Feedback and Commitment

Mr. Samen Sanggod, Head of the Village Development Committee, expressed his hope that such programs would continue to build environmental consciousness among children. The event concluded with a prize-giving ceremony for the "Most Creative Recycled Paper Competition," witnessed by Project Director Irene Valeris Nasod. This initiative reflects UNIMAS's commitment to its slogan: "Community-Driven University for a Sustainable World."

CARE PROJECT – REDUCE PLASTIC, MAKE FANTASTIC ECOBRICK 2.0

28th June 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

Overview

After 14 weeks of dedicated effort, the FSSH successfully concluded the CARE Project: "Reduce Plastic, Make Fantastic Ecobrick 2.0." This initiative, rooted in the SSR2023 Environmental Dimensions of Development course, aimed to tackle plastic pollution through creative upcycling. The project culminated in the "Build-a-Stool" Ecobrick Competition, bringing together university students and secondary school participants.

The Highlights

The project beginning with two comprehensive workshops that introduced students from five secondary schools to the technical and environmental aspects of ecobricking. The finale saw teams from SMK Hajjah Laila Taib, SMK Asajaya, SMK Sadong Hilir, SMK Sadong Jaya, and SMK Pesantren Abdul Taib Mahmud competing to construct stools entirely from ecobricks. Under the guidance of course coordinators Dr. Haslina Hashim and Cik Siti Khatijah Zamhari, the students demonstrated remarkable creativity and engineering skills. SMK Sadong Jaya emerged as the first-place winner, followed by SMK Asajaya and SMK Hajjah Laila Taib in second and third place, respectively.

Impacts to the Community

This engagement fostered a deep sense of environmental stewardship among the 56 secondary school students involved, providing them with a tangible solution to plastic waste management. For the FSSH students, the project served as a vital experiential learning platform, allowing them to lead community-based environmental advocacy. The presence of Puan Fatimah Bt Matjri from the District Education Office (Samarahan) and strategic support from the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and the Sarawak State Education Department (JPN) underscored the importance of institutional collaboration in driving regional sustainability goals.



Feedback and Commitment

The project was hailed as a success with the Assistant District Education Officer praising the initiative for its practical approach to environmental education. FSSH remains committed to its role as a "Partner for Social Change," ensuring that academic modules continue to deliver meaningful, green solutions for the community.



USR PROJECT – THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE AS THE KEY TO FUTURE SUCCESS

2025 | Sekolah Kebangsaan Rituh, Serian

Overview

A group of students from the Industrial Relations and Employment Program (IREP) successfully carried out a University Social Responsibility (USR) initiative at Sekolah Kebangsaan Rituh, Serian. Centered on the theme "The Importance of Knowledge as the Key to Future Success," the project designed to inspire young minds in rural Sarawak to recognize education as the primary engine for personal and community growth.

The Highlights

The program was spearheaded by IREP lecturers Madam Claudia Jiton and Dr. Mohd Khairul Nabil bin Mohd Nor Azan. The engagement featured motivational speeches and interactive sessions involving 20 primary school students, their dedicated teachers, and the school's Principal, Mr. Cleveland Anak Riden. The program highlighted the need for a balanced approach to development, specifically addressing the school's reputation for strong sporting achievements.

Impacts to the Community

The session raised awareness among the students about the crucial role of knowledge in shaping a brighter future, leaving them inspired to pursue their studies with renewed vigor. For the teachers and the Principal, the program provided valuable external support in their ongoing efforts to encourage rural students to strive for academic milestones alongside their sporting goals. Additionally, the university students involved gained significant experience in community leadership, learning how to tailor educational messages to suit the specific needs and cultural context of a rural school.



Feedback and Commitment

The Principal of SK Rituh expressed his gratitude for the visit, noting that such university-level engagements are vital for motivating students in rural areas to look beyond their current surroundings. This initiative reinforces the Faculty's commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to nurturing a well-rounded and future-ready generation through meaningful community outreach.

USR PROJECT – PREFECT LEADERSHIP CAMP: SMK SG TAPANG 2025

21st August 2025 | Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sg Tapang

Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS, in collaboration with SMK Sg Tapang, successfully organized the Prefect Leadership Camp 2025. This one-day program was designed to empower student leadership at the school level, gathering 84 prefects from Form 1 to Form 4 for a series of intensive training modules. The camp was officially launched by Mr. Lee Joon Onn, Principal of SMK Sg Tapang, with the support of the school's management and a dedicated team of nine FSSH lecturers and five teachers who served as facilitators.

The Highlights

The camp was structured into three core activity pillars specifically designed to hone the leadership potential of the participants. The first session focused on the concepts of effective leadership and a deep understanding of a leader's role within the school organization. This was followed by activities testing communication skills and teamwork, where participants interacted strategically to achieve collective goals. The camp concluded with modules on group dynamics and problem-solving, challenging the students to think critically and adapt to unexpected scenarios.

Impacts to the Community

The organization of this camp had a significantly positive impact on the character development of the students, with participants showing a marked increase in enthusiasm, creativity, and self-confidence. For SMK Sg Tapang, the initiative successfully strengthened the credibility of their prefectorial board as high-caliber leaders. For UNIMAS, this collaboration reinforced the university's role in contributing to local community development, aligning with the faculty's aspiration to produce a young generation that is competitive, disciplined, and authoritative.



Feedback and Commitment

The leadership camp was highly well-received by all parties, with participants describing the activities as interactive and deeply inspiring. This success reflects FSSH UNIMAS's ongoing commitment as "A Partner for Social Change," dedicated to shaping future leaders through high-quality education and leadership training.



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT AWARENESS DAY 2025 & THE LAUNCH OF THE SELF-EMPOWERMENT MODULE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED YOUTH IN SARAWAK

23rd August 2025 | Galeri Pustaka Negeri Sarawak

Overview

This program was organized by Dr Farah Zaini and few lecturers from FSSH in collaboration with the Sarawak Society for the Blind (SSB) Kuching. The program was designed to heighten public awareness and empower visually impaired youth through the official launch of a comprehensive and specialized self-empowerment module.

The Highlights

A Self-Empowerment Module, are introduced which was developed to guide visually impaired youth in building self-confidence, leadership qualities, and resilience against social barriers. The event also featured various immersive activities, including a Braille introductory workshop, demonstrations on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the visually impaired, and a white cane simulation to help participants experience and navigate the world from a non-visual perspective.

Impacts to the Community

The development of this module provides direct benefits to Sarawak's visually impaired youth by offering an inclusive roadmap toward personal empowerment and a more independent lifestyle. For the general public, the interactive activities provided a new perspective and a deeper understanding of support and engage with the visually impaired community.



Feedback and Commitment

The collaboration between FSSH UNIMAS and SSB Kuching received highly positive feedback from various stakeholders, who recognized it as a significant step toward equitable social development. FSSH remains dedicated to supporting empowerment initiatives that ensure a truly inclusive society for all.



PROGRAM KAMPUNG ANGKAT MADANI – PROGRAM KESEDARAN DAN PENDIDIKAN PENGUNDI

1st November 2025 | Kampung Semera Lot, Asajaya

Overview

As a cornerstone of the Projek Cintakan Negara, FSSH in strategic partnership with the Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia (SPR), successfully launched the Program Kesedaran dan Pendidikan Pengundi (Voter Education Program). This initiative brought together academic experts, election officers, and the local community of Kampung Semera to deepen the understanding of electoral rights and democratic responsibility, ensuring that rural voices are well-informed and active in the nation's democratic process.



The Highlights

The program focused on empowering the community particularly youth and young adults aged 18 to 30 through a hands-on approach to democracy. Participants were guided through the entire electoral life cycle by SPR officers, covering everything from voter registration to the final act of casting a ballot. A key highlight was the Mock Election, which allowed first-time voters to experience the practicalities of the voting booth in a controlled, educational environment.

Impacts to the Community

By embedding academic expertise into grassroots action, the program provided Kampung Semera residents with direct access to institutional knowledge. The initiative successfully:

- **Nurtured Political Literacy:** Specifically targeting the critical mass of new voters to ensure they participate with a deep understanding of accountability.
- **Bridged Institutional Gaps:** Strengthened the relationship between government agencies (SPR), the university (UNIMAS), and the rural community.
- **Promoted Long-term Engagement:** Established a foundation for consistent voter turnout and increased civic consciousness for future generations.

Feedback and Commitment

The success of this first engagement has led FSSH and SPR to plan for this voter education program to become a recurring feature. Moving forward, the faculty aims to expand this outreach to other rural districts and within the university student body to ensure widespread democratic literacy.



PROGRAM KAMPUNG ANGKAT MADANI – PROGRAM KOMUNITI MADANI, SEJARAH DAN BUDAYA DISANJUNG

1st – 2nd November 2025 | Kampung Semera Lot, Asajaya

Overview

Under the flagship Program Cintakan Negara, FSSH continues to champion the Kampung Angkat MADANI initiative. This program serves as a strategic bridge between higher education and rural communities, focusing on civic empowerment and social cohesion. The second component of this initiative, titled "Program Komuniti MADANI, Sejarah dan Budaya Disanjung," was designed to foster deep social bonds through a two-day immersive homestay experience, turning the village into a living classroom for students.

The Highlights

The program centered on a foster-family concept, where students were integrated into the household routines with their foster families, gaining firsthand insights into rural livelihoods and local traditions. The evening featured the Malam Sejarah dan Budaya MADANI, a vibrant cultural night where students and villagers participated in traditional singing contests and performances, celebrating values of respect and inclusivity.

Impacts to the Community

The program successfully transformed the "individualistic" student experience into one of collective empathy and mutual understanding. For the community of Kampung Semera Lot, the presence of UNIMAS students provided a platform for cultural exchange and reaffirmed their role as essential partners in national development. For the students, the experiential learning approach moved beyond academic theory, allowing them to internalize MADANI values such as empathy and community spirit.



Feedback and Commitment

The closing ceremony emphasized that this collaboration is not a "one-off" event but a foundational step toward sustainable community development. Tokens of appreciation were presented to the foster families as a gesture of gratitude for their hospitality. FSSH remains dedicated to the UNIMAS agenda, ensuring that the university remains an active partner in nurturing democratic values and societal well-being across Sarawak's rural heartlands.



PROGRAM KAMPUNG ANGKAT MADANI – MADANI YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

2nd November 2025 | Kampung Semera Lot, Asajaya

Overview

Complementing the Program Citakan Negara initiative, FSSH in collaboration with Akademi Kenegaraan Malaysia (AKM) Sarawak, successfully conducted the MADANI Youth Leadership Programme. This initiative represents the third core component of the Kampung Angkat MADANI (KAM) framework, focusing on the development of human capital. The program provided an inclusive platform for youth in Kampung Semera and the wider community to strengthen their national identity and cultivate leadership competencies rooted in the principles of Malaysia MADANI.

The Highlights

The program featured specialized leadership and motivational modules delivered by AKM Sarawak speakers, Mr. Muhammad Saufi bin Suut and Mr. Rakhael bin Kosman. The sessions moved beyond theoretical leadership, focusing on practical character development, integrity, and ethical decision-making. Key activities included:

- **Transformative Leadership Workshop:** Interactive dialogues on navigating contemporary social challenges through the lens of MADANI values (Empathy, Respect, and Trust).
- **National Awareness Kahoot Quiz:** A game-based civic literacy session that reinforced participants' knowledge of Malaysian history, governance, and the foundations of nationhood.
- **Civic Dialogue:** An open Q&A session where local youth articulated their perspectives on citizenship and their roles in the nation's ongoing building efforts.



Impacts to the Community

For the participants in Kampung Semera, the engagement provided a transformative platform to enhance their civic identity and leadership confidence. For AKM, the collaboration facilitated a direct channel to reach rural youth, ensuring national unity programs are accessible and impactful at the grassroots level.

Feedback and Commitment

The representative of the Village Chief of Kampung Semera Lot praised the initiative for its ability to inspire the younger generation to take proactive roles in community development. The session concluded with a formal exchange of tokens of appreciation, symbolizing the sustained partnership between UNIMAS, AKM Sarawak, and the local community.

PROGRAM SEKOLAH ANGKAT MADANI 2025

“EDUCATION, WELL-BEING, AND FUTURE HOPE”

10th November 2025 | Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kota Samarahan

Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), in collaboration with SMK Kota Samarahan, successfully organized the “Education, Well-being and Future Hope” as part of UNIMAS’ Program Sekolah Angkat MADANI 2025 initiatives. The program brought together 103 Form 4 students for a series of self-development activities, led by a dedicated team of 11 lecturers, 10 third-year Social Work students, and one postgraduate student serving as facilitators.

The Highlights

The sessions focused on character building and knowledge empowerment through two main slots: “Digital Literacy and Usage Ethics” and “My Ambitions: Determinant of the Future.” These activities were designed to be interactive, sparking enthusiasm, creativity, and self-confidence among the participants. Beyond motivation, the program provided essential exposure to the ethical responsibilities of using technology and the importance of organized future planning.

Impacts to the Community

Through this engagement, the students of SMK Kota Samarahan received valuable academic and motivational input, guiding them toward becoming a competitive, disciplined, and authoritative generation. For the university students, the experience of serving as facilitators allowed them to sharpen their soft skills and social empathy while gaining a deeper understanding of the needs within a school community.



Feedback and Commitment

The program received highly positive feedback from the school administration and the participants, aligning perfectly with FSSH’s aspiration to be “A Partner for Social Change.” This success reflects the faculty’s ongoing commitment to the theme of “Education, Well-being, and Future Hope,” striving to produce human capital that is balanced in both intellect and character.



CARE PROJECT – BUILDING A BETTER WORLD: SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKITS 2025 EXHIBITION

21st November 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

The "Building a Better World: School Sustainability Toolkits 2025 Exhibition," designed to engage both university and secondary school students in the global sustainability agenda. Organized by second-year Development Planning & Management students as part of the SSR2103 Basic Concepts and Issues in Development course, to translate academic theories into practical community engagement.

The Highlights

The exhibition featured booths and interactive activities curated by the students, focusing on all 17 SDG Goals. A total of 60 students and six teachers from SMK Muara Tuang, Kota Samarahan, led by Cikgu John Lee, attended the session to explore how local actions impact global sustainability. The event encouraging participants to adopt sustainable daily practices and think creatively about how to spread environmental and social awareness within their own neighborhoods.

Impacts to the Community

The exhibition served as a vital pedagogical tool that helped them develop the ability to communicate complex development concepts more effectively to a younger audience. Dr. Regina Garai, noted that these interactions make sustainability messages more relatable and easier to digest for the community. Simultaneously, the students from SMK Muara Tuang gained a practical understanding of the SDGs.



Feedback and Commitment

The exhibition receiving enthusiastic feedback from the SMK Muara Tuang delegation regarding the hands-on nature of the learning modules. This project demonstrates FSSH's ongoing commitment to experiential learning and its dedication to serving as a partner for social change by fostering strong links between academic research and community education.

CARE PROJECT – BUILDING COLLECTIVE CAPACITY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ACTION

15th & 24th November 2025 | Kampung Asajaya Laut & Kampung Sebandi Ulu, Asajaya

Overview

The CARE Project, themed "Building Collective Capacity Through Collaborative Action," led by third-year Social Work students under the SSS3113 Community Work course. This project was designed to strengthen community capacity through collaborative efforts, encompassing a wide range of social, educational, and cultural activities conducted across two villages in the Asajaya district.

The Highlights

At Kampung Asajaya Laut, the program focused on cultural preservation and social welfare through the documentation of traditional local delicacies and heart-warming visits to elderly residents living alone. Environmental and safety awareness were also prioritized through a tree-planting initiative at a local school and a seminar on sexual harassment and bullying prevention at the Muhammad Al Fateh Islamic Education Center. Meanwhile, at Kampung Sebandi Ulu, the atmosphere was filled with community spirit during the "Keluargaku Syurgaku" family talk, the "What's Next After School" educational booth, and a traditional Inang dance workshop. The engagement concluded with high-energy activities including Zumba sessions and traditional folk sports that involved residents of all ages.

Impacts to the Community

Through these activities, the villagers received direct benefits in the form of increased social and health awareness, while fostering a stronger sense of unity through shared recreational activities. For the students, the fieldwork served as a vital professional platform to develop their social work skills. It allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of community dynamics and provided a practical opportunity to apply academic theories to address the real-world needs of the society.



Feedback and Commitment

The project received exceptional cooperation and an enthusiastic response from the residents of both villages. This success reflects the ongoing commitment of the Social Work Program to produce graduates who are not only academically competent but also possess deep empathy and the ability to contribute meaningfully to the capacity-building of local communities.

WORKSHOP ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) FOR OIL PALM SMALLHOLDERS

29th November 2025 | Dewan Centex, Mukah

Overview

FSSH successfully organized a specialized Workshop on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for oil palm smallholders in Balingian, Mukah. Integrated into the SSR3074: Social and Environmental Impact Assessment course, this initiative bridged the gap between academic learning and industrial application. By collaborating with the Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) and Solidaridad Network Malaysia, the program addressed the real-world challenges of sustainable agriculture in sensitive peatland ecosystems.

The Highlights

The workshop was led by Dr. Haslina binti Hashim, and Dr. Daniel Ugih Echoh, featuring a technical keynote by FSSH alumna Miss Vendora Ivy of Solidaridad Network Malaysia. Sixty participants from six Iban longhouses — Rumah Jambai, Rumah Annie, Rumah Muda, Rumah Tuan, Rumah Petrous, and Rumah Dunstan Bee engaged in intensive training modules.

Key sessions included:

- Sustainable Management: Best practices for fertilizer application and pest control tailored for peat soil.
- Safety & Compliance: A live demonstration of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) led by community member Cikgu Bunsu.
- Certification Readiness: Preparing smallholders for the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification to ensure future market access and compliance.



Impacts to the Stakeholders

This program transformed students' learning by involving them directly in data collection and interviewing, fulfilling UNIMAS's mission as a "Community-driven University." For the smallholders, the workshop provided a rare opportunity to gain technical knowledge traditionally inaccessible to rural farmers. By promoting soil and water conservation on peatlands, the initiative protects the environmental value of the Balingian region while promising higher, more consistent yields for local families. The collaboration also strengthened the "Triple Helix" bond between academia, state agencies (LCDA), and international NGOs (Solidaridad).

Feedback and Commitment

Participants expressed deep gratitude, noting that such technical workshops are rare in their region and vital for their livelihoods. Looking ahead, FSSH and its partners aim to involve the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) in future sessions to assist farmers with licensing and formal certifications.



CARE PROJECT – EMPOWERING LONGHOUSE COMMUNITIES IN MUKAH

30th November – 2nd December 2025 | Mukah (Rh Annie, Rh Muda, Rh Petrous, Rh Jambai, Rh Tuan Entili, & Rh Dunstan Bee)

Overview

A total of 129 students from the Development Planning and Management Programme successfully implemented the CARE Project SSR3013 across six longhouses in Mukah. This community engagement initiative aimed to empower local residents by introducing sustainable practices and fostering a spirit of collaborative action between the university and rural communities.

The Highlights

Under the theme “Waste to Wealth: Value for a Sustainable Community,” students conducted interactive poster presentations that illustrated how effective waste management can generate both social and economic benefits. The program also featured a collaborative “gotong-royong” session, where students and residents joined forces for cleaning and waste segregation to promote environmental responsibility. Adding significant industrial depth to the event, representatives from Balingian Power Generation (BPG) of Sarawak Energy delivered talks on their operations, environmental monitoring, and their corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts in supporting the surrounding Mukah.

Impacts to the Community

The initiative provided the residents with practical knowledge on turning waste into valuable resources, thus enhancing their overall well-being and local environmental health. For the students, the project offered a profound experiential learning opportunity, allowing them to apply development planning concepts in a real-world setting while honing their communication and teamwork skills. The collaboration with BPG further bridged the gap between academic theory, community needs, and industrial environmental standards, fostering a holistic understanding of regional sustainability.



Feedback and Commitment

The project was met with great enthusiasm by the community members and partners alike, highlighting the importance of collective action in achieving a greener future. FSSH remains dedicated to sustaining such meaningful engagements that contribute to the long-term resilience and sustainability of Sarawak’s rural communities.



SULAM PROJECT – BIDAYUH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EXPLORATION

December 2025 | Bung Bratak Heritage Centre, Bau

Overview

To bridge the gap between academic theory and the living cultural landscapes of Borneo, Dr Nur Auni Ugong and Dr Tracy Peter Samat organized the "Community Engagement and Cultural Exploration" initiative. As part of the SSY2023 Culture and Ethnicity in Borneo course, 146 undergraduate students from the Anthropology and Sociology Programme joined forces with over 100 community members from Kampung Tembawang Baru, Kampung Jagoi, and Kampung Singai. Held at the historic Bung Bratak Heritage Centre and supported by the Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA).

The Highlights

Officiated by Bau District Officer Mr. Eddy anak Nayoi, the program featured a robust academic-community dialogue led by distinguished Bidayuh leaders.

- **Expert Lectures:** Speakers including Pengulu Ranit Anak Rujah, Mr. Joseph Jindy (DBNA), and Temenggong Atok Anak Derop provided nuanced perspectives on Bidayuh identity, historical resilience against modernization, and contemporary social negotiations.
- **Interactive Exhibition:** Students engaged in hands-on learning through a vibrant display of traditional beadwork, musical instruments, and costumes.
- **Cultural Exchange:** The session culminated in shared performances of dance and storytelling, alongside practical community work such as heritage site maintenance and documentation at the Bung Bratak center.

Impacts to the Community

This initiative served as a catalyst for cultural continuity, providing the local community with a platform to articulate their heritage aspirations and document practices for long-term preservation. By involving 146 students in direct hands-on work, the project supported community-based economic opportunities tied to cultural tourism and creative industries. For the students, the program dismantled ethnic stereotypes and fostered deep cultural empathy, transforming their understanding of indigenous worldviews into a practical commitment to social inclusion and heritage stewardship.

Feedback and Commitment

The success of this partnership reflects FSSH's dedication to cultural sustainability and the empowerment of indigenous voices. By directly addressing the limited public access to structured heritage engagement, the program reinforced the university's role as a partner in regional development.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: POLGOV BOND – BUILDING WARMTH ACROSS AGES

12th December 2025 | Splendid Care Centre, Kuching

Overview

The third-year students from the Politics and Government Studies (POLGOV) programme, organized a meaningful outreach initiative titled "POLGOV Bond: Building Warmth Across Ages." Held at the Splendid Care Centre in Kuching, the program brought together 22 students and six lecturers, led by Programme Advisor Dr. Leha Saliman. The initiative focused on reconnecting students with the lived realities of the elderly, addressing social challenges such as loneliness and limited social support through active humanitarian engagement.

The Highlights

The half-day program was designed to nurture humanitarian values and enhance intergenerational communication. The visit commenced with a warm welcome from Ms. Miting, a representative of the Splendid Care Centre, who emphasized the importance of social responsibility toward the elderly. Students and residents participated in a series of interactive mini-games and group singing sessions, which successfully transformed the care centre into a space of joy and inclusion. These simple yet impactful activities served as a bridge between generations, allowing students to practice active listening and patience while providing residents with much-needed social interaction.

Impacts to the Community

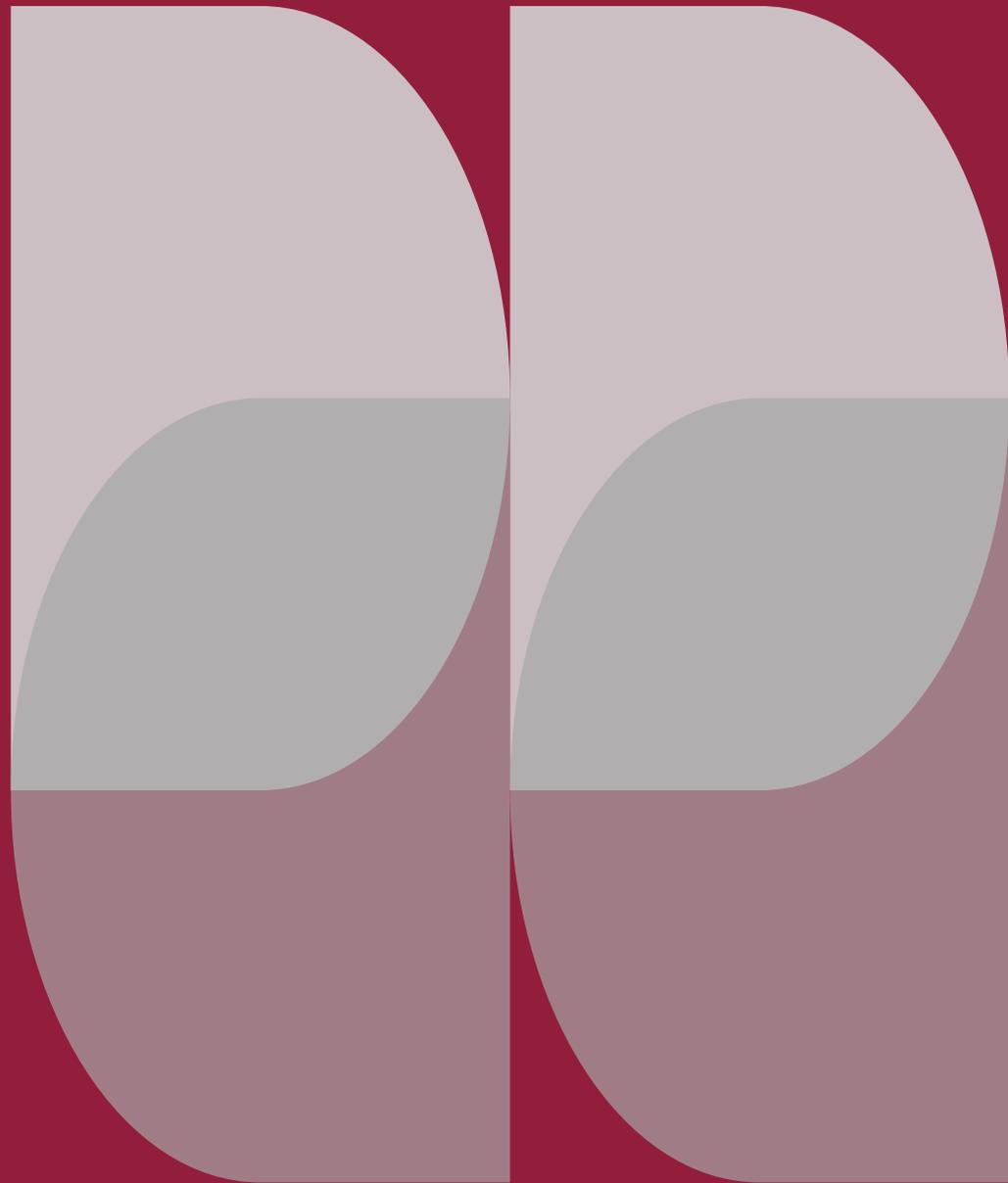
This initiative provided the elderly residents with emotional support and a sense of being valued members of society. For the POLGOV students, the program served as a vital experiential learning platform. It allowed them to apply humanities-based values such as empathy, teamwork, and social responsibility in a real-life context.

Feedback and Commitment

The program highlights FSSH's dedication to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by promoting inclusive learning and a caring community culture. The positive feedback from the Splendid Care Centre underscores the success of these cross-generational relationships.



SECTION 4
**INDUSTRIAL & INSTITUTIONAL
ENGAGEMENT**





SYMPOSIUM ON PRODUCTIVITY & WELL-BEING OF PUBLIC SERVANTS IN SARAWAK 2025

27th February 2025 | Dewan Syarahan, Abang Salahuddin Islamic Centre (PITAS), UNIMAS

Overview

This industrial engagement symposium was jointly organized by the Industrial Relations and Employment Program (IREP), FSSH, and CUEPACS. It aimed to bring together experts in trade unions and public service to address the critical intersection of workplace productivity and employee well-being.

The Highlights

The sessions focused on key pillars such as increasing the understanding of the role of trade unions in the modern workplace and empowering excellence and professionalism within the civil service. Furthermore, experts addressed contemporary social issues that directly affect productivity, including the rising concerns surrounding online gambling and fraud.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

Through these discussions, civil servants gained increased motivation and a deeper understanding of how personal well-being contributes to public service excellence. The event also served as a strategic networking platform, allowing civil servants from various Sarawak departments to connect and share collaborative solutions for workplace challenges.

“The symposium focuses on enhancing productivity and well-being among civil servants..”



Feedback and Commitment

The symposium was highly well-received, with participants expressing a renewed commitment to advocating for supportive work environments. FSSH remains dedicated to fostering industrial harmony and the holistic development of the public sector workforce.



BLOOD DONATION AND DENTAL CHECK CAMPAIGN WITH SARAWAK DENTAL UNION AND HOSPITAL BLOOD BANK

14th & 19th April 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

Overview

This University Social Responsibility (USR) initiative was a partnership between FSSH, the Sarawak Government Dental Employees' Union (SGDEU), and the Hospital Umum Sarawak Blood Bank. The campaign focused on community health awareness and direct medical contribution.

The Highlights

The campaign featured educational talks that emphasized the life-saving impact of regular blood donations, led by Dr. Siti Rashidah Abu Bakar. This was followed by a dental hygiene seminar by Dr. Fabian Chew Pang Yaw, who highlighted the critical link between oral health and an individual's overall quality of life.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The health awareness talks successfully reached 152 individuals, fostering a more health-conscious community within the faculty. On a practical level, the campaign saw 65 participants actively contributing to the blood donation drive, providing vital resources to address ongoing shortages at local hospitals.

Feedback and Commitment

The campaign received overwhelmingly positive feedback from both collaborators and the community. This success reinforces UNIMAS's commitment to community welfare and public health partnerships.



SEMINAR ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS BY UNION OF TELECOMS EMPLOYEES SARAWAK (UTES)

22nd April 2025 | Dewan Kristal HEPA, UNIMAS

Overview

The Industrial Relations and Employment Programme (IREP) organized this lecture to provide students with a practical foundation in the mechanisms of industrial harmony, specifically focusing on collective bargaining and legal agreements.

The Highlights

Featuring experts from the Union of Telecoms Employees Sarawak (UTES) – Puan Kamasiah Binti Hj Taiban, President of the Union of Telecoms Employees Sarawak (UTES), with Tuan Muhammad Hasnizam bin Drahman, General Secretary of UTES. The seminar highlights the step-by-step negotiation process, ranging from initial clause reviews to the final registration of agreements with the Industrial Court. Speakers also addressed modern industrial challenges, such as unequal bargaining power and the urgent need for better protections for contract workers.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

Students gained essential practical insights that deepened their appreciation of legal frameworks and real-world negotiation dynamics beyond the classroom. Simultaneously, the faculty strengthened its ties with industrial unions, ensuring that the academic curriculum remains aligned with current industry standards and labor market realities.

“to provide students with practical foundation in the mechanisms of industrial harmony..”



Feedback and Commitment

Students noted the value of hearing direct negotiation experiences from union leaders. The faculty continues to empower its students through industry-linkage programs that bridge academic theory with professional practice.



INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT: FOSSH 2025 – PAMERAN MAHASISWA BITARA

28th – 30th April 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS

Overview

As a core component of the Festival of Social Sciences and Humanities (FOSSH) 2025, the Industrial Relations and Employment Club (IREC) successfully organized the Pameran Mahasiswa Bitara. In collaboration with the Persatuan Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan (PSSK), this three-day exhibition turned the FSSH Ground Floor into a vibrant hub for professional development, bridging the gap between academic life and the national industrial landscape.

The Highlights

The exhibition was designed to facilitate direct knowledge transfer and networking opportunities. A diverse range of ten prominent agencies and organizations participated, providing students with insights into various sectors:

- **Energy & Infrastructure:** Sarawak Energy Berhad.
- **Labour & Social Security:** Jabatan Tenaga Kerja Sarawak, PERKESO, and KWSP.
- **Human Capital Development:** HRD Corp.
- **Health & Social Welfare:** Sarawak AIDS Concern Society (SACS) and Teratak Kasih.
- **Safety & Emergency Services:** Angkatan Pertahanan Malaysia (APM) Samarahan.
- **Social Entrepreneurship:** Ecz Soap and Borneo Kinetics Sdn Bhd.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This program enhanced students' professional readiness by offering a "one-stop" platform to engage with potential employers and social organizations. Beyond networking, the exhibition encouraged creativity and allowed students to see the practical application of social science theories in the corporate and public sectors. For the participating agencies, the event served as an effective recruitment and outreach channel, connecting them with a pool of talented.



Feedback and Commitment

The success of Pameran Mahasiswa Bitara underscores FSSH's commitment to producing "Bitara" (extraordinary) graduates who are not only academically sound but also industry-connected. By integrating such exhibitions into the FOSSH calendar, the faculty ensures that its students are well-prepared to navigate the evolving demands of the job market.

BILATERAL SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM & PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (RESEARCH DIVISION)

30th April 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS

Overview

The International Relations Program reached a significant milestone by hosting its inaugural bilateral seminar in collaboration with the Research Department of the Prime Minister's Department (JPM). This high-level industrial engagement serves as a strategic bridge between academic research and national policy-making, facilitating a direct exchange of ideas between the nation's leading scholars and government analysts.

The Highlights

The seminar was honored by a distinguished delegation led by Dato' Dr. Jafri Abdul Jalil, Deputy Director-General of the Research Department (JPM), accompanied by senior research officers. The session functioned as a dynamic intellectual forum where FSSH lecturers and government analysts engaged in deep dialogue on pressing global challenges. Key topics of discussion included national border security, the shifting landscape of global power dynamics, and the critical role of ASEAN in navigating contemporary regional affairs.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This collaboration provides FSSH with invaluable insights into the practical complexities of national intelligence and strategic planning, ensuring that the International Relations curriculum remains aligned with national interests. For the Prime Minister's Department, the seminar offered access to academic frameworks and evidence-based theories that can enhance the quality of national strategic research. This partnership strengthens the network between the university and the central government, fostering a community of practice that benefits both the academic and civil service sectors.



Feedback and Commitment

The seminar was highly regarded by both parties as a vital exercise in intellectual diplomacy and knowledge sharing. Dato' Dr. Jafri Abdul Jalil and the faculty leadership expressed a mutual commitment to establishing this bilateral seminar as a recurring platform for strategic discourse. This initiative reinforces FSSH's position as a key contributor to national security and international relations discourse in Malaysia.



FSSH COURTESY VISIT TO LAND AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT, SARAWAK

14th May 2025 | Menara Pelita, Kuching

Overview

A delegation from FSSH visited the Land and Survey Department (JTS) to explore strategic institutional collaborations. The visit aimed to bridge academic research with government policy and land governance.

The Highlights

Discussions between the faculty and JTS leadership focused on potential joint research and consultancy in spatial planning and land governance. The dialogue also covered internship placements and industry exposure for academic staff, as well as the development of tailored training programs designed to enhance innovation within the public sector.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The faculty successfully enhanced the real-world application of its academic programs by establishing stronger government linkages. For the government sector, the visit identified key areas where academic-led research can support more effective policy development and community-level planning.

Feedback and Commitment

JTS welcomed the expertise of FSSH, and both parties expressed a strong interest in formalizing future joint projects. This visit underscores the faculty's role as an active partner for social change and policy support.



INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SEMINAR ON LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMATION IN TRADE UNIONS BY UNION OF TELECOMS EMPLOYEES SARAWAK

20th May 2025 | Dewan Syarahan, Abang Salahuddin Islamic Centre (PITAS), UNIMAS

Overview

Organized by IREC, this seminar explored the evolution of leadership within trade unions during major organizational transitions, titled "Harmonious Industrial Relations: From Government Bodies to Private Entities."

The Highlights

Tuan Haji Mohamad Ibrahim shared his extensive leadership experience, focusing on how privatization affects workers and changes the fundamental role of unions. The seminar also touched on modern workforce issues, including the legal recognition of gig workers and the growing impact of AI and automation on industrial harmony.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

Students gained a profound understanding of trade union leadership and the practical foundations of workplace harmony, such as fairness and open communication. Furthermore, the IREP program reinforced its commitment to equipping students with industry-relevant knowledge that prepares them for the complexities of the modern job market.

"The seminar focus on The importance of leadership adaptability in maintaining industrial harmony during organisational change."



Feedback and Commitment

Participants found the discussion on gig workers and AI particularly timely. The faculty remains committed to preparing graduates for the complexities of the modern industrial landscape.



STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT: FSSH UNIMAS VISITS AKADEMI KENEGARAAN MALAYSIA (AKM)

24th July 2025 | Prime Minister's Office, Putrajaya

Overview

FSSH took a significant step toward strengthening national leadership and civic education through a courtesy visit to the Akademi Kenegaraan Malaysia (AKM) at the Prime Minister's Department. Led by Dean Dr. Kiky Kirina Abdillah, the delegation met with AKM's Deputy Director General, Mr. Shahrir Zaman Abd Wahab, to explore high-impact collaborations. As a key agency tasked with promoting the MADANI agenda and nationalism, AKM serves as a vital partner for FSSH in translating academic research into national policy and community-building initiatives.

The Highlights

The discussion centered on mutual interests in federalism, regionalism, and the complexities of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63). With AKM operating over 15 training centers nationwide, including the Pusat Latihan Kenegaraan Sampadi in Sarawak, both institutions identified immense potential for regional cooperation. Moving forward, the partnership aims to integrate AKM's expertise into FSSH initiatives such as the Kampung Angkat MADANI program and University Social Responsibility (USR) projects.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

For FSSH students and staff, the collaboration provides a direct channel to participate in nation-building modules and leadership development programs endorsed by the Prime Minister's Department. For AKM, the academic depth provided by FSSH ensures that their training modules are grounded in rigorous social research, particularly regarding Borneo-state relations and federalism. Ultimately, this synergy enhances the capacity of both institutions to produce future-ready leaders who are deeply rooted in national values and civic literacy.



Feedback and Commitment

AKM expressed a strong interest in leveraging FSSH's expertise for future outreach and digital media training. Both parties are committed to a sustained partnership that advances the national agenda through education and leadership. This visit marks the beginning of a robust collaboration aimed at fostering a more informed, united, and proactive Malaysian citizenry.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON HUMANITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVE 2025

29th – 30th July 2025 | Kompleks Islam Sarawak, Kuching

Overview

FSSH was invited as key exhibitor at the "International Seminar on Humanity and Climate Change: A Multidimensional Perspective 2025." Held at the Kompleks Islam Sarawak, this international seminar was organized in conjunction with the 70th-anniversary celebration of Majlis Islam Sarawak, serving as a platform to discuss the intersection of human values and the global climate crisis.

The Highlights

FSSH booth showcased "Eco Soap," an environmentally friendly cleaning product repurposed from used cooking oil and "Eco Bricks," which are building blocks created from processed plastic bottles and packaging waste. These exhibits provided practical examples of how academic research can lead to innovative waste-management solutions that are accessible to the general public.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This participation provided FSSH with a platform to demonstrate its research-to-action capabilities to international delegates, government officials, and industrial partners. By presenting functional products made from waste, FSSH successfully promoted the concept of the circular economy, encouraging stakeholders to view waste as a resource. For the community, the exhibition served as an educational catalyst, fostering deeper awareness of how individual and local actions can contribute to global environmental preservation and climate resilience.



Feedback and Commitment

The faculty's involvement in this seminar underscores its unwavering commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship. The positive reception of the Eco Soap and Eco Bricks projects highlights the public's interest in practical, green technologies.



ECO-SOAP COMMUNITY PROJECT: BRIDGING SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

14th – 17th July 2025 | Islamic Information Center (IIC), Kuching

Overview

Madam Noor'ain Aini proudly showcased her Eco-soap Community Project at the Islamic Creativity and Innovation Festival: The Beauty of Islam. The project, a spin-off from the KPT-UNIMAS Social Innovation Fund, focuses on the circular economy by converting used cooking oil into eco-friendly soap. The festival organized by the Islamic Information Center (IIC) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Majlis Islam Sarawak (MIS).

The Highlights

The display featured a variety of cured soaps in different shapes, scents, and colors, illustrating the versatility of the recycled product. This including a collection soaps produced by Koperasi Rezeki Kerjasama Kuching Berhad. These products, packaged for uses ranging from laundry to corporate door gifts, provided a tangible example of how household waste can be upcycled into a viable social entrepreneurship model.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The initiative addresses both environmental hazards and economic empowerment. By teaching communities to repurpose used cooking oil, the project prevents improper disposal that leads to water pollution and drainage blockages. Furthermore, the collaboration with local cooperatives demonstrates a successful model for home-based industries, providing livelihoods for residents.

Feedback and Commitment

Madam Noor'ain Aini emphasized that this project highlights the vital role of social scientists in creating awareness and opening new doors for community empowerment. The initiative resonated with the festival's theme of celebrating beauty through positive change and innovation.



STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION: FSSH UNIMAS AND THE INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS (IDFR)

21st August 2025 | IDFR, Kuala Lumpur

Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS, has initiated a high-level strategic partnership with the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), the premier training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia (Wisma Putra). Leading the FSSH delegation, Dr. Khalid Zanudin (Deputy Dean for Industrial and Community Engagement) and Dr. Shafina Tantiana (IR Programme Coordinator) were received by YBhg. Dato' Westmoreland Palon, Director of the Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC) at IDFR. This visit marks a significant step in aligning academic excellence with the professional requirements of Malaysia's diplomatic service.

The Highlights

The discussions identified three core pillars of collaboration designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice. First, the partnership establishes exclusive internship opportunities for International Relations students, offering them direct exposure to the workings of Malaysia's diplomatic institutions. Second, both institutions agreed to co-organize seminars and training workshops, building on the 2024 "Diplomatic Career Paths" success to bring practitioner insights directly to the classroom. Finally, the collaboration will focus on joint research projects centered on diplomacy, governance, and regional studies, with a specific emphasis on the unique perspectives of East Malaysia and the ASEAN community.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This collaboration significantly enhances the employability of FSSH graduates by equipping them with professional networks and practical skills essential for a career in foreign service. For academic staff, the exchange of knowledge with experienced diplomats supports continuous professional development and enriches the faculty's research output. For IDFR and Wisma Putra, this partnership provides a pipeline of well-prepared talent and academic support for strategic regional studies, strengthening Malaysia's overall diplomatic influence in the global arena.

Feedback and Commitment

Both FSSH and IDFR have expressed a strong commitment to a lasting legacy in the field of international relations, with plans already in motion to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the near future. This partnership positions the IR Program at UNIMAS as a beacon for aspiring diplomats, ensuring that the next generation is ready to navigate the complexities of global politics.



STRATEGIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT: FSSH VISITS BHESS (JPM) AND INPUMA (UM)

21st – 22nd August 2025 | Putrajaya & Kuala Lumpur

Overview

International Relations Programme recently undertook two high-level strategic visits to key national institutions in Peninsular Malaysia. These engagements with the Bahagian Hal Ehwal Sabah dan Sarawak (BHESS) under the Prime Minister's Department and the International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA) at Universiti Malaya reaffirm FSSH's commitment to advancing national policy discourse and strengthening the East Malaysian perspective in academic research.

The Highlights

The two-day mission focused on bridging the gap between state-level dynamics and national policy frameworks:

- **BHESS (21 August):** Led by Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Nizar Ya'akub, the delegation met with Encik Mohd Saiful Sungkih bin Abdullah, Secretary of BHESS. Discussions centered on the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) and federal-state relations. Key outcomes include the exploration of joint seminars to educate the public on MA63 and the opening of internship pathways for UNIMAS students within the federal coordinating body.
- **INPUMA (22 August):** Led by Dr. Shafina Tantiana Zulkipli, this session focused on governance and international affairs. The partnership aims to produce joint policy briefs and comparative studies, while also facilitating student mobility and co-hosting high-level policy roundtables.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This dual-engagement strategy significantly enhances the academic and professional landscape for FSSH. Students will benefit from prestigious internship placements at BHESS, gaining firsthand experience in policy formulation and federal governance. For faculty members, the partnership with INPUMA provides a platform for increased research visibility and capacity building.

Feedback and Commitment

Both BHESS and INPUMA recognized FSSH UNIMAS as a strategic academic partner for regional insight. Encik Mohd Saiful (BHESS) highlighted the importance of academic-government synergy in safeguarding state interests, while INPUMA expressed readiness to serve as a hub for professional training and collaborative research. These visits mark a significant step toward making FSSH a key contributor to national and regional development.



COURTESY VISIT BY MERCY MALAYSIA TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

25th August 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) had the distinct honour of welcoming a senior delegation from MERCY Malaysia for a strategic courtesy visit. This engagement was designed to foster a robust collaboration focused on humanitarian efforts and public health initiatives, specifically aimed at improving the well-being of diverse communities throughout Sarawak.

The Highlights

The delegation was led by Madam Mary Agnes, Head of the Volunteer Management Department, alongside representatives from the MERCY Sarawak chapter. The dialogue focused on identifying synergies between academic expertise and humanitarian action, exploring key areas such as specialized training and capacity-building programs tailored for MERCY Malaysia staff, as well as the co-development of joint health missions within the region.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This potential partnership provides a significant pathway for students to gain real-world experience through internships and industrial attachments within one of the region's most prominent humanitarian organizations. It also offers a platform to apply academic research and training modules to active social crises and public health challenges.



Feedback and Commitment

The visit was based on shared purpose and a mutual commitment to serving the community through impactful initiatives. Both parties expressed optimism about the long-term potential of this alliance, which marks the beginning of a coordinated effort to address social and health disparities.



PROGRAM SEGULAI SEJALAI BERSAMA CEO@FSSH WITH SALCRA & PETROS

17th September 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

The "Program Segulai Sejalai Bersama CEO@FSSH" was successfully conducted as a flagship industrial engagement initiative by UnIC UNIMAS. It marked a significant milestone in the university's efforts to bridge the gap between academia and industry. This program served as a strategic platform for high-level dialogue, aimed at aligning academic learning with the real-world expectations of the corporate and public sectors.

The Highlights

The faculty was honored by the presence of two esteemed industry leaders, Tuan Joseph Blandoi, the general manager of SALCRA and Tuan Ahmad Zaidi Hatta, Head of Advisory & Liaison of PETROS. The sharing session delved into critical themes such as the transformative power of mentorship and the necessity of early industry exposure for graduates. Furthermore, the dialogue emphasized the importance of robust industry-academia linkages and continuous knowledge sharing as essential drivers for institutional and professional growth.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This engagement provided academic staff with a rare opportunity to gain direct insights from top-level management, helping to demystify industry standards and professional requirements. For the industry partners, the program offered a meaningful way to contribute to the development of the next generation of leaders, ensuring that the talent pipeline remains relevant and responsive to current market needs.



Feedback and Commitment

FSSH extends its sincere gratitude to UnIC, UNIMAS and distinguished guests and the organizing committee for their dedication to the program's success. This initiative reinforces the university's ongoing commitment to fostering a collaborative ecosystem where academic excellence and industrial expertise move forward together.

THE BASIC MALAYSIAN SIGN LANGUAGE (*BAHASA ISYARAT MALAYSIA*) WORKSHOP

15th October 2025 | Dewan Majlis, Pusat Pentadbiran Baru Mukah

Overview

Themed "The Silent World and the Speaking Hands," this workshop was a joint effort between FSSH internship students (Social Work Program) and Physiotherapy Unit of Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Bahagian (PKMB) Mukah to promote inclusivity by teaching basic sign language to government employees.

The Highlights

Led by Ms. Lau Ek Bin, from the Sarawak Deaf Community Services Association (SDCSA), supported by Ms. Nurul Ain Jannah, the programme organiser from PKMB Mukah who was also the BIM interpreter, the workshop provided deep insights into Deaf culture and the specific communication barriers faced by the community. Participants engaged in practical sign language exercises specifically designed to improve interactions between public service officers and the Deaf community.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

As a result of this session, 70 public servants from various Mukah agencies are now better equipped to assist and communicate with Deaf citizens. Additionally, the workshop provided social work students with invaluable hands-on experience in organizing high-impact community inclusivity projects.

"To raise awareness of the importance of Malaysian Sign Language (BIM) as a communication medium for the Deaf community.."



Feedback and Commitment

The workshop was praised for its practical approach, with many agencies requesting more advanced BIM sessions. This supports the broader goal of making public services truly accessible to everyone.



NATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT COLLOQUIUM 2025

23rd – 24th October 2025 | Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching

Overview

This Industrial Relations and Employment Program (IREP), FSSH, was invited to serve as the secretariat for the National Trade Union Movement Colloquium 2025. Organized by the Department of Trade Union Affairs (JHEKS) Sarawak, the colloquium aimed to address critical labor issues and strengthen the trade union movement within Malaysia.

The Highlights

The colloquium featured in-depth discussions on contemporary challenges facing trade unions and explored the roles and functions of sustainable unions within the modern employment ecosystem. The event's academic value was further enhanced by the participation of FSSH lecturers who served as panelists and moderators, providing expert perspectives on navigating industrial harmony and the protection of workers' rights.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

A total of 10 students from the Industrial Relations and Employment program gained invaluable practical exposure to the management and execution of a national-level event. By serving as the secretariat, these students not only sharpened their leadership and organizational skills but also received direct insights into real-world trade union dynamics. For the faculty, this involvement strengthened the linkage between the university and government agencies like JHEKS, ensuring that the academic curriculum remains closely aligned with industry requirements and policy developments.



Feedback and Commitment

The colloquium successfully achieved its objective of connecting future graduates with industry practitioners and policymakers. Feedback indicated that such collaborations are essential for producing competent graduates who possess a thorough understanding of the complexities of industrial relations. FSSH remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote a deep understanding of workers' rights and trade union functions to ensure long-term industrial stability.



TALK SERIES: THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN ORGANIZATIONS

9th December 2025 | Seminar Hall, Pusat Islam Tun Abang Salahuddin (PITAS), UNIMAS

Overview

The Industrial Relations and Employment Programme (IREP) successfully organized this insightful talk series as part of its ongoing effort to connect students with industry veterans. The program was specifically designed to explore the fundamental dynamics of labor relations and the strategic role that trade unions play in maintaining organizational harmony and protecting worker interests.

The Highlights

The session was led by Tuan Haji Mohamad Ibrahim bin Hamid, the Vice President of Union Network International–Malaysia Labour Centre (UNI-MLC) and former President of the Union of Telekom Employees Sarawak (UTES). Drawing from his extensive national and international experience, he shared deep insights into the practical functions of trade unions within modern organizations. The discussion moved beyond theory, providing participants with a real-world perspective on how union activities influence corporate policy and labor advocacy.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

A total of 58 participants, comprising Year 2 students and alumni, gained a significant educational advantage by engaging directly with a high-level practitioner. For the students, the talk served as an eye-opening introduction to the complexities of industrial relations, helping them form a clear understanding of workers' rights and the legal frameworks governing employment.



Feedback and Commitment

The session was widely regarded as an invaluable experience, noting that the speaker's first-hand accounts made the academic concepts much more relatable. This event highlights IREP's dedication to enriching the student experience through high-impact industrial engagement, ensuring that UNIMAS graduates are grounded in industry knowledge.

SUSTAINABLE WITHIN, GREEN EARTH BEYOND 2025 PROGRAMME BY LCDA

13th December 2025 | Surau Darul Hijrah, Darul Hana, Kuching

Overview

FSSH participated as a key exhibitor in this sustainability programme organized by the Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA), focusing on promoting community-level environmental stewardship.

The Highlights

The faculty's contribution, led by Dr. Haslina Hashim, included hands-on demonstrations of EcoBrick initiatives, which turn plastic waste into building blocks. The session also featured EcoPlanter initiatives that offered practical solutions for reusing materials in home gardening and urban landscaping.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The engagement successfully promoted practical and applicable waste reduction solutions, raising significant awareness among the public. It also enhanced the reputation of FSSH as a vital knowledge partner for government agencies like LCDA, showcasing the faculty's expertise in sustainability.

Feedback and Commitment

Visitors showed great interest in the EcoBrick process, indicating a strong desire for community-based environmental solutions. This engagement reinforces FSSH's role in supporting sustainable development at both the community and policy levels.



SECTION 5
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT





GLOBAL ACADEMIC MOBILITY: THE GLOBAL MOSAIC – UI X UNIMAS

5th – 11th May 2025 | Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Overview

Development Planning & Management Programme, FSSH, organised an international mobility initiative titled "The Global Mosaic: UI x UNIMAS." This week-long program involved 24 students and six lecturers in an immersive collaboration with the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP) at Universitas Indonesia (UI). Designed to foster academic diplomacy and regional integration, the program served as a platform for intercultural learning and strategic institutional bonding.

The Highlights

Academic Diplomacy: A dialogue between FSSH lecturers and the Dean of FISIP, Prof. Dr. Semiarto Aji Purwanto, identified opportunities for joint research, matching grants, and co-authored publications to strengthen the Southeast Asian academic ecosystem.

Knowledge Transfer (Joint Lecture): A session on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), co-delivered by Dr. Farah Zaini (UNIMAS) and Dr. Getar Hati (UI), provided a comparative regional analysis of CSR practices and their socio-economic impacts.

Community Innovation (Bank Sampah Visit): FSSH lecturers visited Bank Sampah Gunung Emas, a pioneering community-led "waste bank." This visit provided technical insights into how grassroots circular economy models can drive sustainable financial empowerment and environmental change.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The mobility program cultivated global citizenship and critical thinking through exposure to Indonesian social dynamics and policy frameworks. The engagement with UI and Bank Sampah Gunung Emas provided real-world case studies for the social sciences curriculum.



Feedback and Commitment

The Global Mosaic reflects a shared commitment between UNIMAS and UI to enhance academic synergy across the Nusantara region. Both faculties envision this as a milestone in a long-term partnership that will continue to inspire students to pursue impactful research and community-driven innovation.

GLOBAL ACADEMIC MOBILITY: POLGOV UNIMAS X FISIPOL UGM

21st – 26th June 2025 | Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Overview

The Politics and Government Student Society (POLGOV), FSSH, UNIMAS, achieved a significant milestone in regional academic diplomacy through a six-day international mobility programme in Yogyakarta. In collaboration with the Student Corps of Politics and Government (KOMAP) at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), the initiative themed "Bridging Ideas" involved 30 final-year students and four lecturers. Supervised by Professor Datu Dr. Neilson Ian Mersat and Dr. Leha Saliman, the programme aimed to deepen the understanding of comparative governance and foster cross-cultural solidarity between Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Highlights

International Political Forum: A global classroom dialogue on "Diversity and Democracy," where students and faculty compared the political systems and cultural pluralism of both nations.

Institutional Visit: A strategic visit to the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) of the Special Region of Yogyakarta, where students engaged in a Q&A session regarding local governance and legislative processes.

Strategic Planning: Faculty members from both UNIMAS and UGM held meetings to explore future joint research initiatives and long-term academic collaborations.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The programme provided a "living laboratory" to witness the complexities of Indonesian democracy and governance firsthand. It enhanced students' analytical skills, regional awareness, and leadership potential. Moreover, the collaboration with UGM reaffirms UNIMAS' commitment to producing globally-minded graduates.



Feedback and Commitment

The "Bridging Ideas" programme demonstrated that student mobility is a powerful tool for fostering inclusive governance and international cooperation. Both POLGOV UNIMAS and KOMAP UGM expressed a strong commitment to sustaining this relationship, ensuring that the dialogue between future leaders of both nations remains vibrant and impactful.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT: COURTESY VISIT FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

23rd June 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

FSSH was honored to receive a high-level courtesy visit from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Sarawak. Led by the Consul General, Mr. Musa Derek Sairwona, the visit aimed to reinforce the long-standing diplomatic and academic rapport between Sarawak and Indonesia, exploring new avenues for cross-border knowledge sharing and institutional growth.

The Highlights

The session opened with a presentation by Dr. Kiky Kirina Hj Abdillah, Dean of FSSH, who detailed the faculty's strategic vision, academic strengths, and its role as a leader in multidisciplinary research and community engagement. In response, Mr. Musa Derek Sairwona provided an overview of the Consulate's pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties through education and cultural exchange. A significant highlight of the dialogue was the prospective collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). It was noted that UGM's Faculty of Forestry is planning an upcoming visit to Sarawak, positioning FSSH as a key partner for future joint initiatives.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This engagement serves as a gateway for FSSH to expand its international footprint, particularly within the Indonesian academic landscape. For FSSH, the potential partnership with top-tier institutions like UGM offers opportunities for international research collaborations, student exchange programs, and shared expertise in regional social and environmental issues. For the Consulate, this relationship ensures that Indonesian citizens and academic institutions have a reliable and expert partner in Sarawak, fostering a deeper mutual understanding of the socio-political and educational dynamics within the Borneo region.



Feedback and Commitment

Both parties expressed a strong shared commitment to formalizing these academic partnerships. The visit concluded with a clear roadmap for future engagement, emphasizing that the synergy between UNIMAS and Indonesian higher education institutions is vital for regional stability and intellectual advancement. FSSH remains dedicated to its mission of being a global academic player through proactive diplomatic and industrial networking.



GLOBAL ACADEMIC MOBILITY: FOSTERING ASEAN TIES – IR STUDENTS EXPLORE HO CHI MINH CITY

30th June – 4th July 2025 | Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Overview

The International Relations (IR) Program, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), UNIMAS, successfully conducted its annual study trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Themed “Fostering ASEAN Ties,” the five-day expedition led by Madam Noor’ain Aini and Madam Dayangku Norasyikin Awang Tejuddin involved 35 students. The program was designed to move beyond theoretical textbooks, allowing students to witness the practicalities of diplomacy, the scars of geopolitical history, and the dynamics of regional cooperation within the ASEAN framework.

The Highlights

Consular Briefing: At the Malaysian Consulate General, Dr. Azriey Mazlan (Consul of Education) provided students with a rare “behind-the-scenes” look at implementing foreign policy and managing consular services, bridging the gap between IR theory and diplomatic practice.

University Collaboration: At the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), UNIMAS students engaged with the International Exchange Club (IEC). Discussions focused on Malaysia’s ASEAN Chairmanship theme, “Inclusivity and Sustainability,” encouraging youth-led dialogue on regional unity and cultural appreciation.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This trip shifted students’ worldview from academic abstraction to empathetic global citizenship. The visit to a Lacquerware Workshop, which employs victims of Agent Orange, showcased a successful Vietnamese government model of social innovation and financial independence. By witnessing urban greenery initiatives and French colonial architectural legacies, students also gained insights into sustainable urban development and the complexities of post-colonial identity.



Feedback and Commitment

Program Director Idia Eleanor noted that the experience “changed how we see the world,” while faculty chaperones emphasized that the program achieved its goal of connecting classroom theory with real-world context. FSSH remains committed to providing experiential learning opportunities that prepare students to navigate and lead in a complex global landscape.

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT: FSSH WELCOMES THAIHEALTH ACADEMY DELEGATION

5th August 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

FSSH was honored to host a delegation from the ThaiHealth Academy (THA) as part of their prestigious Equity Leaders (EL) Programme. This flagship initiative is designed to deepen regional understanding of health equity, enhance leadership capacity, and build robust professional networks across Southeast Asia. The visit served as a strategic platform for cross-border knowledge exchange between institutions.

The Highlights

The session opened with a welcoming address by Dr. Nicholas Gani, Deputy Dean of Research and Commercialization, who introduced the faculty's diverse research and community portfolios. Representing THA, Professor Dr. Nantawat Sitdiraksa provided an overview of the academy's mission and the objectives of the Equity Leaders Programme. A key highlight of the visit was a special lecture delivered by Associate Professor Dr. Arnold Puyok titled "*Resurgence of the Borneo States and Federal-State Relations.*" This lecture provided the delegation with critical insights into the political and structural landscape of Malaysia.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

This engagement facilitated a unique intersection between public health leadership and social science expertise. For the ThaiHealth Academy delegation, the visit offered a deeper localized understanding of how federal-state dynamics influence policy and equity in the Borneo region. For FSSH, the interaction strengthened its international network within Southeast Asia, opening doors for future collaborative research in public policy, governance, and social well-being. By engaging with regional leaders, the faculty continues to position itself as a key academic hub for understanding the complex socio-political factors that drive regional development.



Feedback and Commitment

The delegation expressed high appreciation for the academic hospitality and the intellectual depth of the sessions. Both FSSH and the ThaiHealth Academy noted the potential for future joint initiatives that bridge the gap between social science research and health equity advocacy. This visit reinforces the faculty's commitment to fostering international partnerships that contribute to a more equitable and well-governed region.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: BORNEO RESEARCH PROGRAM – FSSH HOSTS IAIN PONTIANAK

26th – 28th November 2025 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS

Overview

FSSH recently had the honor of hosting a delegation from Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Pontianak for the Borneo Research Program. The visit involved 28 students and the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Syariah, IAIN Pontianak. This program served as a strategic platform for cross-border academic synergy, focusing on shared heritage and contemporary research within the Borneo region.

The Highlights

The three-day program was packed with academic and social activities designed to foster intellectual growth and cultural bonding:

Borneo Research Seminar: A platform where scholars and students presented findings on regional issues, bridging the gap between Indonesian and Malaysian perspectives on Bornean society.

Global Classroom: An interactive teaching session that brought together IAIN students and UNIMAS students from the Anthropology and Sociology program. This session encouraged the exchange of ideas on social structures, religious studies, and indigenous knowledge.

Faculty Tour: A guided exploration of FSSH facilities, allowing the visitors to experience the academic environment and resources available at UNIMAS.

Impacts to the Stakeholders

The program provided a rare opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and cultural immersion. By discussing shared regional challenges and opportunities, participants developed a deeper understanding of "Bornean Identity" beyond national borders. Moreover, the visit strengthened institutional ties, paving the way for future co-authored research and joint academic projects. This initiative directly contributes to the internationalization of the curriculum, exposing students to diverse viewpoints and methodologies.



Feedback and Commitment

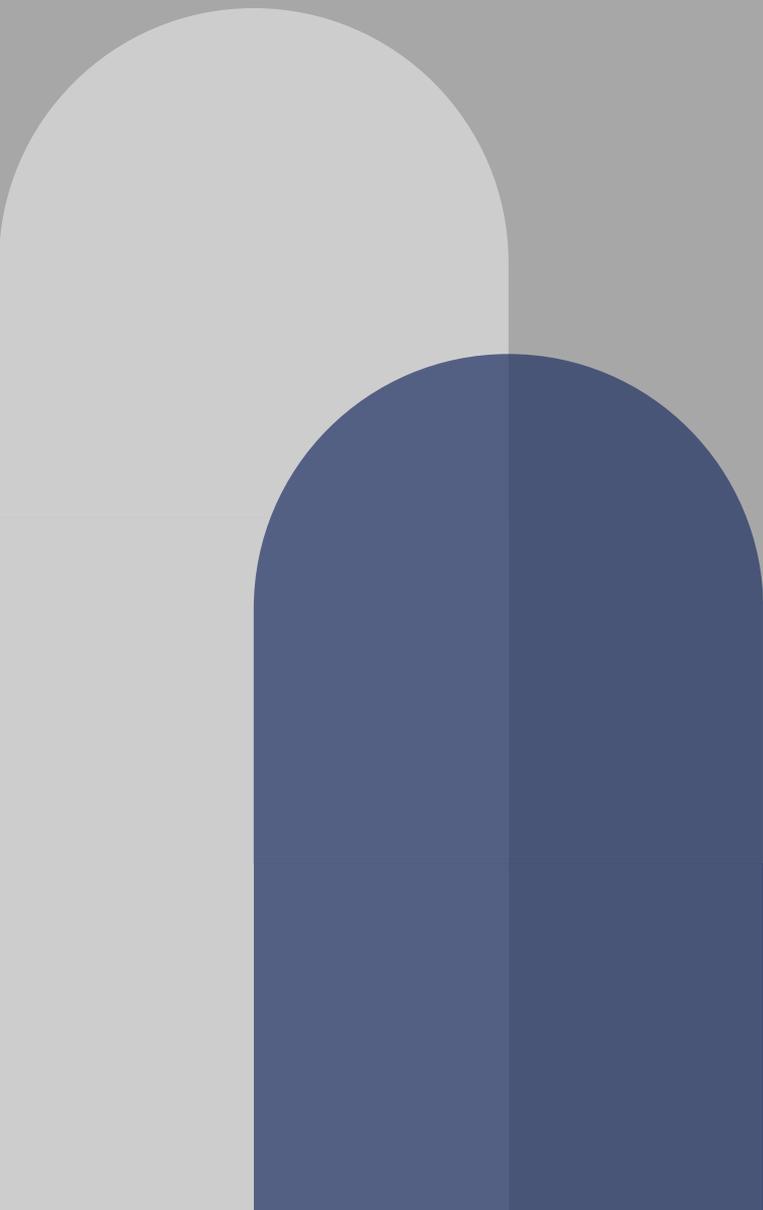
FSSH extends its gratitude to IAIN Pontianak for their productive discussions and collaborative spirit. The Deputy Dean of IAIN Pontianak's Faculty of Syariah noted that the thoughtful engagement between students greatly enriched the program's outcomes.



SECTION 6
UNIMAS GAZETTE

**Some of the community and industrial engagements
conducted and written about for the UNIMAS Gazette in 2025**





<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/05/02/fssh-hosts-lecture-on-industrial-harmony-insights-into-collective-bargaining-and-agreements/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/05/13/blood-saves-lives-fssh-unimas-hosts-health-campaign-with-sarawak-dental-union-and-blood-bank/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/05/21/career-and-health-awareness-at-unimas/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/05/22/swas-unimas-inspires-unity-through-community-outreach-in-asajaya/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/12/unimas-empowers-archaeological-heritage-awareness-at-santubong-through-sulam-programme/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/13/empowering-young-voters-through-sulam-project-undi18-bridgeworks-equips-sarawaks-tvet-youth-with-civic-skills/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/17/harmonious-industrial-relations-from-government-bodies-to-private-entities-leadership-transformation-in-trade-unions/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/20/unimas-ir-students-champion-community-sustainability-through-eco-soap-project-in-kampung-giam/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/26/planting-the-seeds-of-leadership-unimas-champions-change-at-sk-bukit-nibong-sarikei/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/06/26/enhancing-anthropological-learning-through-museum-and-heritage-experiences-a-collaboration-between-borneo-cultures-museum-and-the-anthropology-and-sociology-program/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/15/strengthening-academic-industry-collaboration-courtesy-visit-to-land-and-survey-department-sarawak/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/15/the-global-mosaic-strengthening-cross-cultural-and-academic-ties-between-unimas-and-universitas-indonesia/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/25/there-is-us-in-sustainability-pelajar-hubungan-antarabangsa-didik-kanak-kanak-kampung-giam-tentang-peranan-kita-dalam-pembangunan-lestari/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/25/unimas-international-relations-students-study-trip-to-ho-chi-minh-city-vietnam-a-journey-beyond-the-classroom/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/31/strengthening-national-spirit-through-collaboration-fssh-unimas-engages-with-akademi-kenegaraan-malaysia/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/07/31/the-care-project-enhancing-community-well-being-and-preventing-crime-through-experiential-learning/>

<https://gazette.unimas.my/2025/08/08/the-care-project-empowering-communities-through-drug-prevention-education/>

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