

Mengubah Budaya Kerja



“Kejayaan melaksanakan “Eco-Hub” dalam tempoh yang singkat dengan menggembelngkan warga pelbagai kumpulan dari para profesor hinggalah pekerja am rendah yang mengutip sampah di dalam Durian Valley, membersihkannya malah mengitar semula perabot-perabot dari pelbagai jabatan yang telah tidak digunakan termasuk gelas dan jag untuk menyediakan minuman merupakan contoh kejayaan terkini yang tidak harus dipandang kecil. Malah kejayaan menyiapkannya dalam tempoh tidak sampai sebulan adalah contoh bagaimana perubahan budaya kerja yang menggembelngkan semua pihak dapat berjalan dengan amat baik.”

Mohamad Abdullah
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The editor reserves the right to select and edit articles for publication based on space availability and topical interest. All articles must carry the sender's full name, address and telephone number. A pseudonym may be included.

working together towards a sustainable future

THE ADVENTURES - ECO TEAM USM

By **Prof Mashhor Mansor**
School of Biological Sciences

As an ecologist, I was very happy when Professor Asma Ismail initiated the Eco USM Programme to study the ecology of our campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia. She has taken a positive step to rejuvenate the ecosystem of the campus based on ecology approaches. The full support of, and encouragement from, the Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, has highlighted the importance of the practice of ecological ideas and concepts in the campus. Perhaps the concepts on *the university in the garden* and *the healthy campus* can be further enhanced. After about three months in existence, the Eco USM Team, formed at the Workshop on the Ecosystem, Landscape and Heritage of the USM campus, is trying hard to help the university with volunteer work mainly focusing on the ecological aspects of the campus.



Above : Prof. Mashhor and Assoc. Prof. Saad addressing the participants during the workshop



When Professor Asma organised the workshop in November 2008 at the Penang Holiday Inn Resort, it was the beginning of a new chapter on our campus history with ecology being officially included in routine campus activities. During the workshop, experts were invited to present case studies on various ecological issues based on their experiences. Subjects ranging from the ecological status of the campus, heritage buildings, birds and other wildlife, termite ecology, plant identification and taxonomy, disease plants, landscaping, medicinal plants, museums, computer analysis and technology applications, were highlighted.

I am fully aware that numerous experts from various schools in the campus were not included in the workshop. However, their expertise is needed and sought after. As this ecological programme is conducted on a volunteer basis, members of the entire campus community are very welcome to join in any ecological activities or even to organise related functions including field activities. For example, Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli himself frequently visited the Durian Valley and the Eco Hub and occasionally, he watered the plants during his free time!

The Eco Hub has been built adjacent to the Durian Valley and it is the centre of our activities. Our modus operandi is that everything we do should be associated with, and emulate, nature. Issues are sometimes discussed based on perceptions of our limited knowledge on nature. By failing to understand and comprehending the true meaning of nature, ecological approaches may be wrongly applied. Environmental destruction is gradually on the increase in

Unfortunately, an understanding of certain pressing environmental issues is seldom reflected in the resolution of these issues. Occasionally, an issue can become too complex, although it appears - or starts out as - a straightforward and simple issue. For example, cutting down a tree can cause a conflicting issue especially among the authorities involved. Perhaps this can be easily overcome if we know the subject well. While the Eco USM Team cannot provide all the answers to solve environmental problems, it can provide networking and engender team work and cooperation among the staff involved. Proper methods and techniques are needed in overcoming some pressing environmental issues. For a start, the international days based on ecology entities such as Forestry Day (21 March), World Water Day (22 March), World Biodiversity (23 May) and World Habitat Day (6 October) should be made known to our campus community and if possible, we should participate with other world organisations in celebrating these days. Finally, I personally feel that in order to disseminate ecological knowledge, a bulletin is needed. It can provide an avenue to gather and express our ideas especially those pertaining to the ecological aspects of our beautiful campus.



The Eco USM Team at the conclusion of the workshop

spite of the awareness of its consequences. Apparently, not much is being done to overcome this problem. Ecology is generally based on sustainable development and healthy living. The campus landscape is continuously changing and these dynamic changes have to be measured and planned in a proper manner and in the right direction. Unwanted negative impact from any development should be reduced and routinely monitored. Proper ecological assessments based on spatial and temporal factors are recommended. For example, human activities often result in habitat degradation and pollution should be restricted and limited.



USM VC, Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak having a word with Prof. Mashhor & Mr. Hifni at the Durian Valley



The Eco workshop organised in November last year

Building B11 before us

By Assoc. Prof. Saad Othman, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

During the workshop, the Eco USM Team agreed to restore Building B11 as a one-stop centre for all ecological activities in the USM campus. Building B11 is located at Jalan Pegawai in Zone B. Cleaning and repair work started on 2 December 2008, immediately after the conclusion of the Ecology, Landscape and Heritage Workshop.



Building B11 before the restoration process



Building B11 was successfully restored by the Development Office within a month after the Eco USM Team was formed at the Ecosystem, Landscape and Heritage Workshop. Kudos to the Development Office on a job well done.



General repair and restoration work at B11 (the Eco Hub) starting from 2 December 2008



Initial cleaning by the Development Office of the Eco Hub began on Saturday 17 January 2009. Two days later on Monday, the Eco USM Team had already moved into the building



Building B11 after the restoration process

Who's who @ Eco-Hub USM



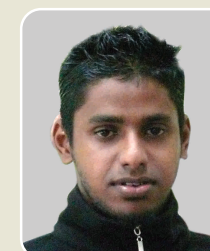
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