



CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORT

Name	:	Wong Swee Kiong
Faculty/Institute/Centre	:	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Conference Title	:	2 nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (ICSDG2019): Achieving SDGs: Rising to the Challenge
Title of Paper/Presentation	:	Socio-economic Impact of Road Connection on the Local Communities in Telok Melano, Sarawak
Conference Venue & Date	:	Olive Tree Hotel, Penang & 30-31 July 2019
Conference Organised by	:	Universiti Sains Malaysia; APEX; Centre for Global Sustainability Studies; South East Asia Sustainability Network
Participation Sponsored by	:	UNIMAS (under FRGS grant - F06/FRGS/1606/2017)

1. Explain the new knowledge (e.g. theories/ concepts/ issues/ research methods/ techniques) gained from the conference.

This conference has provided me insights and another perspective of looking at sustainable development goals. From the officiating speech delivered by the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, I was reminded again on the importance of attending conference as it served as a platform to learn, unlearn, relearn and co-learn with fellow participants. The VC reiterated that listening to the community is important before we could provide solution to them. As highlighted by The Honourable Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail, among the challenges faced by us today include toxic waste, digital divide, climate change, rise of robot to replace labour force. Thus facing all these challenges, a new approach called quadruple helix approach was introduced for tackling the complex challenges we face in our societies. It breaks down the traditional silos between government, industry, academia, and civil participants, bringing multidisciplinary viewpoints together in an environment that promotes team working, collaboration and the sharing of ideas. By working together, this quadruple helix approach can create new shared value that benefits all participants in what becomes an innovation ecosystem. Technology plays a key role in creating networks and connectivity. Value is characterised by a long-term view, focusing on improved social conditions as well as company performance; and success is measured for the ecosystem as a whole, rather than individual units. As emphasized by the VC, listening to the community is important before we provide solution to them.

On the other hand, from the keynote speech by Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, he again highlighted the importance of transdisciplinary approach and said that we are unable to work in silo today. An important quote by

the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, speaking at the Climate Week NYC 2014 was highlighted by Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli during the conference, "If we can't all swim together, we will sink. There is no Plan B, because there is no Planet B". Besides that, it was stressed by Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli regarding the importance of humanising education by transforming 3M (Man, Mind and Machine) promoted in the 20th century to 3H (Humanity, Heart and High touch) in the 21st century today. The reason Tan Sri raised this is because our education system has become more like a factory which is termed by Tan Sri as education without soul today. When inserting 3H, we have sympathy for humanity, empathy for heart and compassion for high touch. He also emphasized that the middle path as a way of wisdom (Rumi, 1207-1273). It was also shared the top 10 countries with the biggest ecological footprint per person, namely Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Denmark, USA, Belgium, Australia, Canada, Netherlands and Ireland. Many more shared by the keynote speaker, plenary speakers, forum and concurrent sessions which really refreshed me a lot for the latest development in theory and practice towards sustainable development goals.

In general, the conference has exposed me to different types of knowledge or work carried out by different researchers or industrial players on different issues or studies in different parts of the world. It has motivated me to widen my perspectives and desire to have more collaborative research with other stakeholders on the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Explain the feedback received on your presentation (Please indicate duration, Q&A and other relevant discussion).

It was a 15-minute presentation and the audience are interested to know more about the homestay activities in Telok Melano. The chairperson said that she really wished to visit Telok Melano one day after listening to the presentation by me. Two lecturers had approached me after the presentation to mention their interest to explore further and to mention about possible collaborative research that can be done together on rural tourism. Overall, there is positive feedback from the audience about the content of the presentation on how the road accessibility has affected the livelihood of the local community in Telok Melano.

3. Will there be any follow-up activities resulting from your participation in the conference (e.g. research collaboration, institutional visits)? State the activity and person(s) involved, if any.

It is a good platform to meet different people either from universities or government agencies and private agencies both from inside and outside Malaysia. Networking with these new friends gives us better idea on whom to approach for examiners or research collaborators or academic advisors for different thesis or research or programmes implemented in UNIMAS in future. It is a unique avenue to meet many industry players who are also playing important roles towards achieving sustainable development goals.

4. Would you recommend this conference to others?

Yes

No

Explain the reason(s).

It is a knowledge gaining and networking platform which expands our thinking capabilities and relates the current issues on a bigger global context.

5. The paper you have presented at this conference

has been published; please specify the journal/proceeding:

OR

is being rewritten for publication.

OR

others, please specify :

6. Please attach a copy of the conference material/kit with this Report for CAIS repository.

Signature		Verified and approved by Dean/Director  Prof Madya Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat Dekan Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan Universiti Malaysia Sarawak 94300 Kota Samarahan
Date	8 August 2019	