

Seminar on Sustainability: Scheduled Waste Management and the Role of Competent Persons

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The Ecopharmacovigilance Research Initiative Group (EcoPharma), in collaboration with the UiTM Pharmacy Analytical Laboratory (UiPAL), successfully organized a knowledge-sharing session entitled *"Seminar Kelestarian: Peranan Pengurusan Sisa Berjadual dan Kepentingan Orang Kompeten Berkelayakan di dalam Industri"* on 20th August 2025. The two-hour session, held from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, featured Mr. Ts. Zaidi bin Mohamed @ Awang, a certified trainer from Institut Alam Sekitar (EiMAS), as the invited speaker.

Token of appreciation was delivered by Prof. Dr. Teh Lay Kek, coordinator of UiPAL

Mr. Zaidi began his presentation with an introduction to the pivotal role of the Department of Environment (DOE) in safeguarding the nation's natural resources. He then provided a comprehensive overview of scheduled waste, touching on its legal definition, regulatory frameworks, and characteristic properties. Participants were also guided through the differences between sanitary and secured landfills, highlighting why proper waste management infrastructure is vital for long-term environmental protection.





The session took a reflective turn when Mr. Zaidi presented historical case studies to illustrate the consequences of poor waste management. Through a short documentary on the Minamata tragedy in Japan and recounting the Love Canal incident in the United States, participants were reminded of the devastating human and environmental costs of toxic waste exposure. He further contextualised these lessons with local examples, including the illegal dumping of potassium cyanide in Pulau Pangkor and the widely reported Sungai Kim Kim pollution crisis in 2019. Each case was analysed in terms of the government's response, corrective actions, and the broader outcomes, encompassing health impacts, environmental degradation, and the penalties imposed on negligent parties.

The sharing session was conducted in a hybrid mode.

Before concluding, Mr. Zaidi emphasized the importance of qualified industry professionals in managing hazardous waste responsibly. He introduced the *Certified Environmental Professional in Scheduled Waste Management (CePSWaM)* certification, underscoring its role in ensuring that competent persons are equipped with the expertise needed to prevent future incidents.

The seminar not only broadened participants' technical knowledge but also highlighted the relevance of embedding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into professional ethics and daily practices. For students in attendance, the session offered a unique off-book learning experience that enriched their understanding of environmental stewardship while also exposing them to potential career pathways in environmental and industrial safety. By fostering both awareness and accountability, the program successfully reinforced EcoPharma and UiPAL's mission to cultivate future-ready professionals committed to sustainability.