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CSSR Awards

Retreat Kualiti

Good Teaching

UiTMCS Expedition

Bengkel Program MBA

PLKN

Prof.Dr. Azni Zain Ahmad

Latihan Khidmat Negara - m.s. 12



Indigenous Knowledge Information System (IKIS)

Bromeley Philip – UILC Associate

UIL Sarawak has formed a sub-committee taking charge of creating substantial database for IKIS via primary and secondary data search and documentation.

The IKIS Initiative is particularly relevant to Sarawak whose population of indigenous peoples comprising 36 ethnic groups forms half of its total population of 2 million people. Sarawak has the oldest forest in the world sustaining amazing biological resources which include 20,000 species of animals and insects, 1000 vertebrates, 400 species of beetle, 394 known species of fish, 8,000 species of flowering plants and 2,500 species of trees (Insham & Joe 2004: 108). The forest is a vital part of life for 80% of indigenous peoples of Sarawak who live in rural areas. To these rural Sarawakians, the forest is a source of food, shelter, medicine, and spiritual inspiration for their cultural nuances and beliefs. Of particular interest is the indigenous knowledge of pharmaceutical biodiversity. Sarawak's forest houses valuable plant genetic resources that might provide active ingredients for modern therapeutic drugs, some of which have been used as traditional medicine. In fact, more than two-thirds of the world's plant species (about 35 000 estimated to have medicinal val-

ues) come from developing countries and Sarawak is no exception.

There is much to learn from indigenous experience even if it is not expressed in sophisticated scientific discourse. The knowledge of indigenous peoples is often enshrined in ritual, ceremony and magic underlying how culture, language, religion, psychology and spiritual beliefs cannot often be separated from their understanding of the natural world. Their knowledge of the natural world maintains a symbiotic liaison with their habitat. Indigenous peoples live off nature even as they help sustain it. Their creativity is reflected in the body of knowledge they have developed to conserve and carefully utilise the rich biological diversity that abounds on this planet. This creativity has healed, fed and clothed the world, only that it remains much in obscurity.

However, as much as there is a compelling need to exploit our rich indigenous knowledge for scientific research and ultimately commercialisation, we must always be wary of the threat of biopiracy – usurpation of knowledge of indigenous peoples (Gurdial 2004). We must take extreme caution that our indigenous knowledge remains safeguarded and does not fall prey to biopiracy:

"...companies often synthesise derivatives of plant mixtures used and identified by indigenous peoples by modifying the molecular structure of one of its active ingredients. Everyone involved in the process benefits enormously. Except, of course, those indigenous peoples who developed the product in the first place!...From the neem plant of India to the devil's claw of Southern Africa, to the sacred

sangraderago of South America. Pharmaceutical companies are the main beneficiaries of this biopiracy. (Gurdial 2004:17-18)

UIL Sarawak has re-identified IKIS into a Sarawak's version, as SAIKINS (Sarawak Indigenous Knowledge Information System – to be uniquely Sarawak). SAIKINS has identified three major areas for primary and secondary data search:

- 1 Bio-Linguistic Diversity – documentation of ethnolinguistic biodiversity terms to sustain indigenous knowledges in the face of a strong likelihood of "language death".
- 2 Pharmaceutical Diversity – documentation of traditional/native medicine.
- 3 Biodiversity – documentation of plants and insects for scientific inquiry.

UIL Sarawak must take careful measures to ensure that the IKIS Initiative will benefit not only scientific researchers from universities and research institutes but also Sarawak's indigenous peoples who have every right to their progenitor's traditional knowledge of wisdom.

UILC LAUNCHING, SEMINAR & EXPO

Date: 23 June 2004 (Wednesday)

Time: 8.00am – 10.30pm

Officiated by: Minister of Higher Education, Y.B. Dato' Dr. Haji Mohd. Shafie Salleh

Venue: Dewan Sri Budiman and Annexe, UiTM

The systems approach to organisations

The systems approach views an organization as a system in which all parts interact and in which each part influences every other part. This view is the same view we take of communication. The organization is viewed as an open system-open to new information, responsive to the environment, dynamic and ever-changing.

The systems approach argues that both the physical and physiological factors of the scientific management approach and the social and psychological factors of the human relations approach are important. Each influences the others. All must be taken into consideration if a fully functioning organization is to be achieved.

In this approach, communication keeps the system vital and alive. If a system is to survive, its parts to be coordinated, and its activities synchronized, communication is essential. Communication relates the various parts to each other and brings in the new ideas.

(From 'Human Communication' written by Joseph A. Devito)

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Tahniah!

kepada semua pelajar yang berjaya dalam peperiksaan semester lepas.

Syabas!

kepada mereka yang dipilih untuk meneruskan pengajian mereka dalam program ijazah sarjana muda di UiTM.

Selamat Datang!

diucapkan kepada para pelajar baru

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