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Implementing The Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] Through Course Assessment Activities

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are the global agenda of the United Nations (UN) to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability through the concerted effort of multiple stakeholders. The 2030 global agenda, as the continuation of the Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), calls for a worldwide, national, and institutional transformation towards a better world, emphasising sustainability as the primary objective. Supported by 17 goals, 169 targets and 247 indicators, the SDG, whose deadline is 2030, is viewed as an ambitious and complex idea towards achieving a realistic condition of sustainability. Nevertheless, the SDG is seen as relevant to bring out changes at various levels of governance and institutions towards sustainability commitment.

SDG implementation at the higher educational institution is vital as it provides sustainability knowledge to the learners, aiming to produce future sustainability leaders and nurture sustainable practices at the university level. For example, the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies (FSPPP) has offered sustainable development-related academic courses for UiTM. Nearly all of its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offer courses that embed sustainable development elements or specifically on the SDG. For example, EVA630 (Sustainable Development Strategies), which is provided to Bachelor of Environmental Administration (AM226) students, and PAD350 (Fundamentals of Sustainable Development), which is offered to Diploma in Public Administration students, are among the relevant courses for SDG. In fact, during the curriculum review, a mapping with SDG elements is necessary to ensure that these courses are aligned with the global agenda.

Teaching sustainable development-related courses through in-the-class activities is insufficient to support the SDG implementation at the higher education level. Therefore, FSPPP has organised SDG Day and Exhibition (DEx) on 9th January 2023 as one initiative to promote and expose the 2030 agenda to the university community. The event is the first ever organised by EVA630 students to fulfil the course continuous assessment plan (CAP) for EVA630, which integrated the element of cognitive and psychomotor through event management activities. It was co-organised with the Bachelor of Environmental Administration (BEVA) association and engaged with other collaborative partners, such as Antah Pharma Sdn Bhd, Dr Mani Group, Syarikat Faiza Sdn Bhd, Mary Kay, Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Hizer.Co, Fa Wood Working and Alam Media Enterprise. DEx 2023 has received a total sponsor amount of RM54322.10 in cash, in-kinds, souvenirs and services.

The objective for DEx is to educate and promote the 17 goals in the SDG to the university community and invited participants. The implementation model focuses on out-of-class activities through academic exhibitions, interactive games and forum sessions. Three hundred eighty-seven visitors, including UiTM students, staff, and students from Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Rasah Jaya, attended the whole-day event. Apart from 17 SDG booths from the students, five exhibitors from the Department of Environment (DOE), The National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA), Bengkel Seri Sembilan, the Turtle Conservation Society and Reimagine Plastic Project were invited to represent specific SDG. This programme has successfully promoted the whole-of-society approach as mentioned in the SDG.



Image 1.1: Participants from Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Rasah Jaya



Image 1.2: Exhibition from Bengkel Seri Sembilan

Visitors were also given opportunities to spread their kind words in supporting specific SDGs that matter to them, such as SDG5 (Gender Equality). It was exciting to see the visitor's inner voice upholding gender equality and women's rights from the sticky notes posted on the board throughout the exhibition. Among their concerns was ensuring women are treated equally to men and avoiding gender discrimination. The following pictures are among the evidence:





Image 1.3: Sticky Note on SDG5



The forum session for DEx 2023 was divided into two parts. The first SDG Forum Session invited the NGOs representing SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG14 (Life Below Water). The other forum panellists were the SDG Ambassadors engaged with SDG-related projects. For the second SDG Forum Session, panellists among FSPPP academicians were invited to share their SDG-related research findings. Through their valuable insights and empirical findings, they have successfully shared the progress on SDG implementation at the local government and institutional levels. The detail of their research is as the followings:

Table 1: List of SDG-related Research Findings Presented at DEx 2023

PANELIST	TITLE	RESEARCH FUNDINGS
Dr Radduan Yusof	Localisation Strategy of SDGs	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) from the Ministry of Higher Education. Grant No: 600-RMC/FRGS 5/3 (019/2021).
Dr Tuan Nooriani Tuan Ismail	'	FSPPP Internal Research Grant. Grant No: 600TNCPI5/3/DDF(FSPPP) (002/2021).
	SDG17 in Environmental Conservation Activities at Malaysian Local Government	FSPPP Internal Research Grant. Grant No: 600-TNCPI 5/3/DDF (FSPPP) (003/2021).
I	lin the Sustainanie Develonment (-nais (SI)(-s)	FSPPP Internal Research Grant. Grant No: TNCPI5/3/DDF(FSPPP) (001/2021

From the event survey, a few takeaways were discovered. Students and participants were keen to know more about SDG and willing to be committed to the SDG implementation. They were happy to be given opportunities to voice their opinion via SDG games and activities. As an organiser, the students have responded positively to the requirement to organise SDG-related programmes as part of their assessments. It has improved their interpersonal skills (i.e., communication and negotiation) and nurtured their creativity to find more sustainable solutions. Students enjoyed organising this event, which has changed the method of teaching and learning from the conventional way to a more interactive and joyful one.

FSPPP will continue to commit to SDG implementation at the university and faculty levels. BEVA, as a student association representing undergraduates in environmental studies, will pioneer sustainable initiatives and campaigns. For 2023, BEVA has planned to organise BEVA Sustainability Month, including the Recyclable Waste Collection Campaign, Beach Cleaning Programmes and FSPPP Lestari Initiative. These efforts required collaboration and commitment from every stakeholder in UiTM and FSPPP. Let's work together for a better world for the sake of our future generation.