

RCE Kuching promotes education for sustainable development

KUCHING: UCSI University Sarawak Campus was recently acknowledged as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) by the United Nations University (UNU) in Japan, part of the academic and research arm of the UN which has begun to lead the promotion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Kuching region.

Launched on Dec 5 last year by Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg, RCE Kuching with the support of UCSI Group is partnering with relevant stakeholders to promote education for sustainable development, a press release said.

The activities planned under RCE Kuching aimed to involve whole communities including schools, village folk, housewives, and village heads.

RCE youth ambassadors have been appointed to assist the RCE with its initiatives.

These youths will be responsible for working with and training other youths in selected communities along the Sungai Sarawak Kiri to promote and establish sustainable communities.

RCE Kuching will be focusing on fulfilling four SDGs namely quality education, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities, and life on land.

A number of activities have been arranged in line with these objectives under key themes



RCE Kuching members and its stakeholders pose for a group with Associate Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei, chairperson of RCE Kuching (front row, ninth left) and Mukvinder Kaur Sandhu, vice chairperson of RCE Kuching (front row, seventh right) while displaying the acknowledgement certificate from UNU.

such as 'River for Everybody' school programme, community programme and research programme.

Through these activities, RCE Kuching will endeavor to prepare leaders of tomorrow for SDGs in local communities, while transforming the delivery of education for sustainable goals through its multi-stakeholder collaborations and programmes.

Among the various initiatives being started in the first quarter of 2019 is the Eco-Campus Programme.

Through this programme, UCSI Sarawak aimed to educate its campus community both staff and students on sustainability and sustainable development in order to internalise eco-friendly

habits and mindsets, embedding sustainability into the culture of the campus.

Through advice from various stakeholders such as WWF-Malaysia, WormingUp and G.A.M.E.S. PLT., the campus has embarked on eco-campus initiatives this year.

From waste management, energy/water management, and green procurement to educational workshops, the campus has launched a number of activities including banning the use of straws, plastic and Styrofoam cups and plates in all its activities, using only FSC-certified paper, collecting and re-purposing used cooking oil, and composting kitchen waste produced at the university.

The university has also set up the UCSI Community Garden as an initiative under the purview of the Gastronomy Club, enabling students of various programmes, including those in the culinary arts, to grow herbs, vegetables and fruit which can be used in their training kitchens.

Students and staff will work together to maintain the garden and bring their harvest straight to their kitchens.

The invaluable insights and eco-friendly practices that are being instilled in the staff and students through this Eco-Campus Programme will be a source of inspiration and a foundation from which to build impactful youth ambassadors.