31 August 2020

Hari Merdeka

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MALAYSIA Independence Day
OCEAN LITERACY
INOS & PPAL TEAM UP TOWARDS OCEAN LITERATE COMMUNITY

Ocean literacy is defined as an understanding of the ocean's influence on oneself and own influence on the ocean. It is a way not only to increase the awareness of the public about oceans, but it is as an approach to encourage all citizens and stakeholders to have a more responsible and informed behaviour towards ocean and its resources.

An ocean literate person can be defined as someone who understands the basic concepts of ocean and using his or her understanding to behave responsibly towards sustaining the longevity potentials of our oceans, as well as conveying to others about it.

PPAL and INOS understand that actions taken by individuals, communities, states, and our country Malaysia influence climate change. Practices and policies followed in homes, schools, businesses, and governments can affect climate. Ocean-related decisions made by one generation can provide opportunities to the next generation.

To get the ball rolling, it is important to introduce seven Ocean Literacy principles as outlined by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2020).

Source: Dr. Azza Jauhar Ahmad Tajuddin, azzajauhar@umt.edu.my; CENTER FOR FOUNDATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION (PPAL)
The first PASTEM face to face assembly took place on 15th August 2020 in a very notable and memorable meeting among PASTEM students and staffs in a Mentor Mentee Program: A Day with PASTEM.

The event commenced with the movement of students from Kolej Siswa to Dewan Sultan Mizan in small groups of eight led by a facilitator from cohort 2 students (STEM Alumni). As required, face masks and physical distancing were applied and followed by all students. In ensuring that the program abides by the SOP set by the university, students’ seating was arranged fitting the SOP for physical distancing.

In the Director’s welcoming speech, PM. Dr. Laili Che Rose, she informed about the importance of the mentee mentor Program and stressed that students took the opportunity to get as much information and knowledge from their mentors. Students were also encouraged to meet their mentors for consultation whenever they faced any problems especially regarding academic matters. The Director also took some time to introduce PASTEM website which was newly designed for students’ references.

In this event, the students were also briefed about BLASTEMA Club PASTEM (student club) by the club coordinator, En. Farid Fuad. In his briefing, he mentioned several interesting and rewarding activities to help improve academic and co-curricular achievements. Upon completion of the BLASTEMA briefing, students were handed over to their respective mentors for a Heart to Heart session with their mentors. This session is used by mentors and mentees to get to know each other and share some information and learning problems of mentees.

Sources: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laili binti Haji Che Rose, laili@umt.edu.my; Nina Marlini binti Ahmad, emim@umt.edu.my; STEM FOUNDATION CENTRE
On 8th August 2020, at 4.00 pm GMT+8, the first ASEAN Young Scientists Network (ASYN) Webinar was organized through the platforms of Zoom and AYSN Facebook Live. The date was selected in conjunction to the 53rd years of ASEAN Day. The activity was initiated by the Science Leadership Programme (SLP)-AYSN batch 2019. In general, the event aims to share tips and research experience in embracing the new normal because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Specifically, the activity conducted:

1. To promote networking among ASEAN young scientists through the ASEAN Young Scientists Network and its Online Collaborative Platform;
2. To provide a platform for ASEAN young scientists to share and discuss their research; and
3. To facilitate the exchange of perspectives on the pandemic and the “new normal” among ASEAN Young Scientists.

The webinar was started with a short welcoming remark by a moderator Miss Sam Shu Qin, AYSN-SLP 2019 fellow from Singapore, followed by AYSN Programme briefing by Dr. Kampanart Silva interim ex-co member AYSN, also from Thailand. AYSN programme has five flagships known as ASEAN Emerging Researchers Conference (ERC), ASEAN Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Project, ASEAN Science Leadership Programme (SLP), ASEAN Pioneering IP Project and ASEAN Online Collaborative Platform (OCP). Members of AYSN are from all ASEAN countries including Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei and Myanmar.

Then, a keynote speech was delivered by Madam Hazami Habib, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Academy of Sciences, Malaysia. She shared Malaysian vision through her speech entitled: Embracing the New Normal: Riding the STIE Wave. The 40-minutes sharing, she hoped ASEAN countries could work together based on our strength in order to share the prosperity.
The forum was started with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail, AYSN-SLP 2019 fellow, from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia. She took the opportunity by promoting Universiti Malaysia Terengganu prior to share her experience in conducting research related to Honey and Sustainable Beekeeping in Malaysia. She hoped ASEAN countries could work together to produce ASEAN signature natural honey and combating fake honey trading. Then, Dr. Dao Viet Hang from Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam, a medical doctor, shared her experience in handling COVID-19 cases in Vietnam as a frontliner. Dr. Ahmad Agus Setiawan, an assistant professor from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, proudly presented his research in Clean Energy for ASEAN Sustainable Future. Now, he is an energy expert staff at the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia in helping the country to develop the green energy 2050. The last panel was Dr. Meng Wang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. He shared his experience in Science development involving young scientists in China. He also highlighted how the pandemic had impacted his research in geology, which make him discovered a new path in the vaccine development.

The forum session was continued with several questions from the moderator and the audiences about the biggest challenge in conducting research during COVID-19 pandemic and how to enhance collaborative works among ASEAN members. The 2-hours webinar concluded by closing remarks by Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa, (interim co-chair AYSN from Thailand. An online survey through Google form was conducted to know the acceptance and satisfaction level from the audience for future improvement. Until 16th August 2020, about 3000 views have been recorded for the webinar. The event was conducted successfully by the committee team lead by Mr. Ryan John Pascual from the Philippines and his team members from ASEAN countries (Nicole Bolo, Sam Shu Qin, Dr. Romiro Bautista, Dr. Thitirat Rattanawongwiboon, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Sarah Othman, Dr. Shahrlul Nizam Ahmad, Assoc Prof Dr. Mas Jaffri Masarudin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail, Dr. Lu Thi Thanh Le, Dr. Dao Viet Hang and Dr. Ahmad Agus Setiaawan).

By the end of the event, the organizer hoped that the webinar shall: provide a platform to engage young scientists from ASEAN countries in discussing science and technology development; share current ASEAN science and technology developments among young scientists; and assist in nurturing ASEAN young scientists as excellent scientists and future science leaders.

Sources: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail, waniryani@umt.edu.my FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT
In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, its impact on national aquaculture activity is needed to mitigate deficit in food security. The pandemic has caused global measures taken by several countries, including the Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia to contain the rate of infection. As such, an online survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 on aquaculture activities was conducted by Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in collaboration with Fisheries Research Institute, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia. A total of 105 respondents participated during the MCO period. Generally, most respondents agreed that COVID-19 had a profound impact on their aquaculture activities (90.2%). A decrease in sales was the biggest problem faced by the Malaysian aquaculture sector with almost 56% respondents responding. This might be related to a significant reduction in the supply chain (importing and distribution of fish or feed; supply and distribution of aquaculture products) due to international and domestic travel and transport restrictions and lockdowns. Meanwhile, the most affected activities during the MCO periods according to the respondents were grow-out culture, followed by nursery culture, especially seed production, ornamental fish activities and brood stock development (Figure 1). The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted various aquaculture related activities such as production, demands and logistics bottlenecks, bureaucracy, employee related problems and temporary closure of fish mills. Expectedly, most respondents were trying to solve their aquaculture problems using Internet of Things (IoT) approach. Our survey also showed that most of the respondents required specific assistance, especially financial assistance to overcome the impacts caused by the pandemic. The results also showed that more than 90% of respondents were aware of the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) provided by the relevant authorities during the MCO period.

**Figure 1: Impacts of COVID-19 on Malaysian aquaculture related activities**

**Sources:** Mohamad Nor Azra Md Adib, azramn@umt.edu.my; Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, ikhwanuddin@umt.edu.my; Nor Azman Kasan, norazman@umt.edu.my; INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES (AKUATROP)
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