



UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
BERILMU BERAKTIVITI

**PUSAT
ANTARABANGSA PUTRA**
PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (i-PUTRA)
قوسنت انتارابغسا قوترا

i-PUTRA NEWSLETTER



I-PUTRA WITH COMMUNITY PROGRAMME (RAMADHAN)

Ramadhan is a holy month in the Islamic calendar. It is time of rewards where all Muslims race to perform good deeds and abstain from bad habits. In this month of Mercy, the rewards of good deeds are multiplied. Hence, to honour the holy month of Ramadhan, i-PUTRA took the opportunity to share and give back to the people.

A government servant does not only serve the people, but also participates in corporate social responsibility initiatives. It is with this spirit that i-PUTRA decided to share the joy and love of Ramadhan by giving soy-based product every Friday in this holy month. i-PUTRA is also motivated by aspiration 8 in the Vice-Chancellor's narrative i.e to care immensely and appreciate service, strengthen humanitarian missions to add value to the university and staff in serving the community and intensifying UPM's visibility.

In the first week of Ramadhan, i-PUTRA distributed 1000 packs of taufufa to UPM students and staff. We are honoured as the Vice-Chancellor himself distributed the taufufa to mark the beginning of i-PUTRA with Community Programme. Taufufa is one of the in-demand desserts during Ramadhan for its sweet taste and its silky texture. It is a traditional Chinese dessert made from soybean also known as tofu pudding and served with sweet syrup. You can have it either chilled or warm.

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It was a first-time experience for most of us. We have never prepared, let alone cook the taufufa. However, with the guidance from Mr. Abu, we were able to get the taufufa done on time as the distribution started at 4 p.m. It was such a remarkable experience. Apart from that, it was also a good bonding experience among the staff as we did everything together. Although we were exhausted at the end of the day, the feeling disappeared the moment we saw the smiling and grateful faces of people who received our taufufa.



Image: Vice-Chancellor distributing taufufa and i-PUTRA staff Hadry giving taufufa to expatriate workers in UPM

For the second series of i-PUTRA with Community, we distributed another 1000 cups of soybean milk to the UPM community. The Director and Deputy Director of i-PUTRA joined us to distribute the soybean milk. It was pouring heavily throughout the event, and we were completely soaked but we managed to distribute all the soybean milk via drive-through. On that day, we started the preparation at 12 noon and finished packing at 3.45 pm. Distribution started at 4 p.m. and we managed to distribute everything within 30 minutes.



Image: Director of i-Putra, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab. Rahman distributing soybean milk drive-thru

The finale series of i-PUTRA with Community for Ramadhan was when we were requested to make another round of taufufa. The final part of the i-PUTRA with Community Programme fell on 22 April 2022 which also happens to be Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2022 is “Invest in Our Planet”. Hence, in conjunction with Earth Day, the taufufa were packed in paper bags because they are eco-friendly and recyclable.

We experienced another heavy downpour episode during this finale series, but despite this, we were happy and beyond thankful that we managed to complete the series successfully. We did not forget those who assisted us in managing our international students. Thus, we distributed the taufufa to the Immigration Department of Malaysia as they have always been very cooperative, especially in dealing with our international students' special pass.



Image: Immigration received taufufa from iPutra

To summarise, we were grateful that all the events went smoothly, and everyone gave their very best to make the i-PUTRA with Community Programme successful. May Allah accept our good deeds and reward us in a manner He knows best.

PRE-ENTRY FOR NEW/RENEWAL STUDENT



WHAT IS A STUDENT PASS?

- A student pass is a pass that is required for all new or returning students to obtain in order to stay in Malaysia legally.
- The student pass validity ranges from 12 months to 36 months (for new students who come with eVAL), and 12 months for returning students according to the Immigration Department of Malaysia guidelines.
- New students must fill in the eVAL application from outside of Malaysia and obtain Single Entry Visa from the Malaysia Embassy in the respective area. Other than that, the students can also apply for eVISA from the Immigration Department's website in order to travel to Malaysia.

SINGLE ENTRY VISA/EVISA

- The Single-Entry Visa is an approval given by the Malaysian Embassy to future students to gain entry to Malaysia. The Single-Entry Visa will take 14 working days to be completed.
- e- VISA is a substitute for the Single-Entry Visa. The students can apply directly from the Immigration Department's website, and it will take 2-5 working days to be completed. But the e-VISA is not applicable for all countries.

HOW TO OBTAIN A STUDENT PASS?

- For new students, they need to do the medical check-up at the University Health Centre and apply for insurance (if they did not buy it together with the EMGS application). After the process is done, the student needs to submit the passport physically to the International Office's counter and wait for a minimum of 14 working days for the student pass to be completed.
- For returning students, they need to start the process a minimum of 60 days before the student pass expires. There is a checklist of documents that they need to prepare in order to obtain the student pass from the Immigration Department of Malaysia.

PRE-ENTRY FOR NEW/RETURNING DEPENDANT



WHAT IS A DEPENDANT PASS?

- A Dependant pass is a pass that is given to the dependant of a student who is studying in Malaysia in order to stay legally in Malaysia.
- The dependant pass will depend on the principal (student) pass availability.
- New dependants must apply for a social pass in order to gain entry to Malaysia depending on the Malaysian embassy at the respective area.

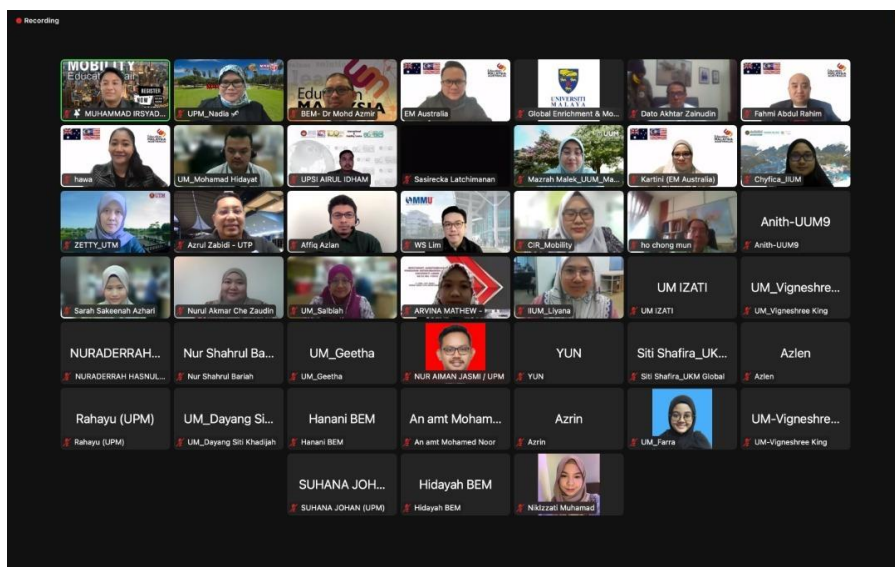
SINGLE ENTRY VISA

- The Single Entry Visa is an approval given by the Malaysian Embassy for future dependants to gain entry to Malaysia. The Single Entry Visa will take 14 working days to be completed.

HOW TO OBTAIN A DEPENDANT PASS?

- For new dependants, it is advisable for the principal (student) to get the student pass first, and then the principal is required to submit the application for new dependant. After the Immigration Department asks for the passport to be submitted, then only the dependant is allowed to enter Malaysia.
- For returning dependants, they need to start the process of renewal after the principal (student) has completed the renewal student pass. There is a checklist of documents that they need to prepare in order to obtain the dependant pass from the Immigration Department of Malaysia.

VIRTUAL MOBILITY EDUCATION FAIR 2022



Happening today is The Virtual Mobility Education Fair (VMEF) 2022, organised by Education Malaysia Australia, EMGS, and powered by the Ministry of Higher Education. The VMEF was officiated by Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Azmir bin Mohd Nizah the Director of Bahagian Education Malaysia this morning. Through this event, 23 top Malaysian universities were featured in and promoted mobility programmes at their respective university.

Ranging from short-term programme to long-term mobility such as semester attachment, Edutourism is the education fair targeting students from Australia and universities to take the opportunity to embark on a mobility journey in the heart of southeast Asia.

Representing UPM is i-PUTRA's mobility section, which was assigned to be at the virtual platform from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Malaysian time and promote PUTRA Experience mobility package. During the session, UPM was also given the opportunity to give a promotional briefing by Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin the Head of Mobility in the VMEF pocket talk session.

WELCOME TO UPM DR. LOLA



Image : from left, Mr Razif Razak, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi, Dr Lola Gandjeva and Madam Raihan

28 June, i-PUTRA received a courtesy visit from Dr. Lola Gandjeva from Urgench State University, Uzbekistan. She will be attached with Faculty of Agriculture from May to October 2022 under Prof. Dr. Mohd. Razi Ismail. Receiving Dr. Lola at i-PUTRA is our Director Prof Dr Suhaimi Ab Rahman, Head of i-PUTRA Madam Noraihan Noordin and Head of Visa and Pass Mr. Razif Abd. Razak.

COURTESY VISIT ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME



Image : Representatives from ERASMUS+ and iPutra staff

On the 1st June 2022, iPutra was visited by Prof. Dr. Krystian Obelewski from University Kazimierz Wielki (UKW) Poland, Prof. Dr. Sezai Ercisli from Ataturk University and Prof. Dr. Ertan Yildirim from Ataturk University. The courtesy visit was accompanied by Associate Prof. Dr. Siti Zaharah Sakimin from the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Uma Rani Sinniah from the Faculty of Agriculture, Associate Prof. Dr. Shureem Faris Abd Shukor from the Faculty of Design and Architecture, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman, Director of iPutra, Madam Ida Suhaila Md Tahir from iPutra, Miss Siti Afifah Mastor from iPutra and Mr Arif Hadi Abdul Talib from iPutra.

ERASMUS+ is a programme to support education, training and youth development. During their visit, we get to share our services and facilities in UPM that both local and international students can benefit from during the student exchange programme. Besides, we are also able to share our experiences in handling students who participate in inbound and outbound student mobility programmes.

A short meeting was held during the courtesy visit and we discussed ways that we can attract agriculture students to UPM as Malaysian borders are now open. Emphasising on our vision, we hope that more students are interested in the student mobility programme at UPM.

A DAY TRIP WITH CUKUROVA UNIVERSITY, TURKEY



Image: Prof Halil Cakran at Taman Eko Rimba, KL

On 9th June 2022, iPutra went to Kuala Lumpur City Center for a day trip with Prof Halil Cakran from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Cukurova University, Turkey. There is a lot to explore in Malaysia, since the weather is fine most of the time. It is also convenient to get around using the public transport, especially in Kuala Lumpur,

The meaningful trip with Prof Halil Cakran began with picking up him at the hotel early in the morning. We wanted to make sure that our guest got to taste all of our local delicacies. Therefore, we brought Prof Halil for breakfast at Kampung Bharu where we introduced him to Roti Canai and Teh O. Then, we went to ECO forest park in the heart of Kuala Lumpur which is located in Bukit Nenas.

The third destination was the Petronas Twin Towers, the iconic twin building of Malaysia. Prof Halil had the chance to experience Petronas Skybridge between the Twin Towers. The breathtaking city view from the glass wall of Skybridge was very mesmerising for us and we recommend everyone to experience this.

We are very grateful that Prof Halil managed to visit Kuala Lumpur which is full of interesting places and very near to UPM. We hope that we get to see Prof Halil again soon.

Prepared by: Ras Afirina Radzi

SELF-ENHANCED THROUGH PUTRA EXPERIENCE SUMMER PROGRAM

For many years UPM has hosted thousands of mobility students ranging from short programmes, and semester exchanges to research attachments. We have received students from more than 80 countries to reside and experience the Malaysian environment while embarking on a journey in the tropical country.



Image: Excursion to Langkawi Island

At i-PUTRA, we are aiming to give experiential learning through our Malaysian cultural diversity which can hardly be found in other countries. Thus, we are offering 18 Putra Experience Summer Programmes that cover each faculty's niche through various ready-made modules and can also be tailored made according to group requests.



Image: Hands-on lab work activities as one of the modules

Ranging from agriculture, biodiversity, science, and technology to human science; these programmes have hosted many international students from many countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand. Learning from notable researchers and top lecturers of ours is something valuable.



Image: Get acquainted with our local Buddies who will assist participants throughout the programmes

Participants will have the facilities and service access such as ground transportation, meals, accommodation, buddies, and many more at an affordable price. Designed to be interactive, easy, and fun the PUTRA Experience Summer begins the moment they land in Malaysia until they depart to their home country bringing back with them great memories.

Take this chance and take part in our PUTRA Experience Summer Programmes by contacting us at mobility@upm.edu.my or browse our website at intl.upm.edu.my for further details.

CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GASTRONOMICAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH PUTRA EXPERIENCE TOUR (PET)

On 2nd of April 2022, 6 of UPM Inbound Mobility Students from Japan, South Korea, Germany, and Brunei joined us on a day trip under the Putra Experience Tour (PET) program to explore the diverse culture and gastronomic experiences in Malaysia.

The first destination of the tour was the Mah Meri Cultural Village. Native to the Peninsular, Mah Meri is one of the ethnic groups in Malaysia, well-known for their unique wood carving. The students were given the opportunity to learn leaf origami and traditional dances. The trip to Mah Meri Cultural Village concluded around noon. Afterwards, the students were taken for a short lunch before departing to their next destination, the National Museum.

At the National Museum, the students were able to visit the available galleries to gain more insight into the history of Malaysia as the gallery exhibition covers the prehistoric era, Malay kingdoms in the Malay Archipelago, and the colonial era in Malaysia to modern-day Malaysia.

The day trip ended with dinner at the Sri Nirwana Maju Restaurant in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. The students tried Banana leaf rice, a traditional Indian cuisine for their dinner. The trip ended around 6.30 p.m. and the first physical trip since the endemic phase in Malaysia was announced was deemed a success. With the success of the first PET program, i-PUTRA is looking into establishing more programs for their inbound mobility students to bring them closer to the communities around them.



Image: The Inbound mobility students and the i-PUTRA staff dressed in the Mah Meri People's Traditional Garb



Image: Inbound mobility students visiting the National Museum

Prepared by : Siti Hajar

GIVING A NEW LEASE OF LIFE TO PUTRAJAYA PRECINCT 16(2) MUSHOLLA

As part of the i-PUTRA with the community initiatives, 12 mobility students from Japan, South Korea, Germany, and Indonesia along with the i-PUTRA staff volunteered to spend their time and energy to breathe a new life into the musholla at the Putrajaya Precinct 16(2) Primary School on 14th of May 2022. The program included the installation of new wallpaper, minor cleaning around the area and applying new coats of paint on the exterior of the Musholla.

Through this effort, the musholla's interior and exterior were upgraded. Hopefully, it will be more conducive for the students and teacher to carry out their activities. It is incredible to see people from different faiths and beliefs coming through to contribute their time and energy to give back to the community. We are optimistic that through the i-PUTRA with the community initiatives, the gap between the international and the local communities can be made closer, despite the differences in culture and religious beliefs.



Image: Mobility students together with i-PUTRA staff members and some of the teachers from SK Putrajaya Precinct 16(2) taking a photo in front of the newly decorated Musholla.

Prepared by: Siti Hajar

UPMXSCU VIRTUAL PUTRA EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

On 30th June 2022, i-PUTRA collaborated with the Soegijapranata Catholic University (SCU) and organised a virtual mobility program titled Virtual Putra Experience: UPMxSCU. This program consisted of an ice-breaking session, an interactive virtual tour, and a mouth-watering culinary demonstration.

The ice-breaking session was conducted by the representative from the UPM Buddies Association. In this session, the students were introduced to Malaysia and its culture which includes traditional attire, local cuisine, and celebrations. The interactive virtual tour was conducted shortly after. The participants were then taken to visit A Famosa, Batu Caves Temple, Cameron Highland Tea plantation, Chong Long Gong Temple, and Teluk Cempedak Beach.

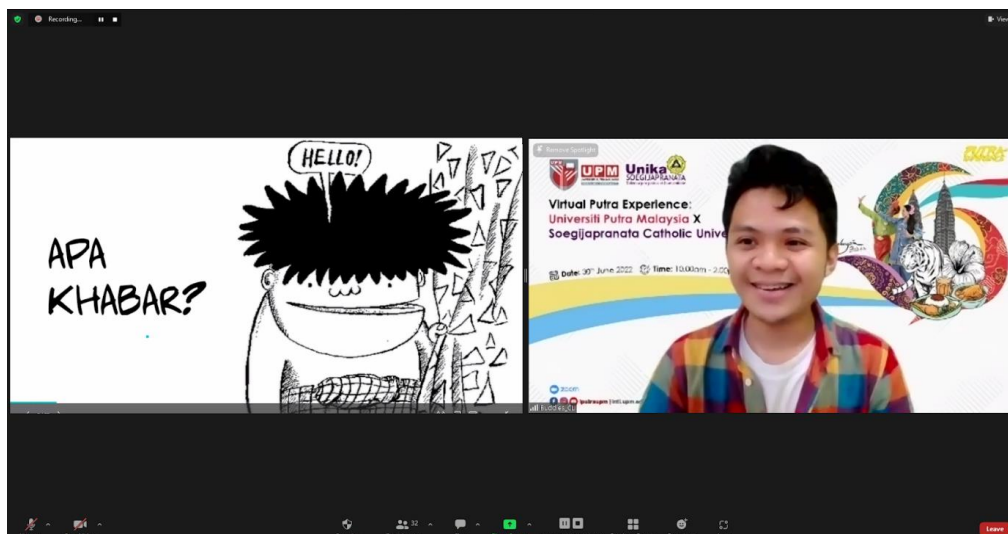


Image: Representative from UPM Buddies Association, Clerence Lewin Champin, conducting the ice-breaking session for the “UPM Virtual Putra Experience UPMxSCU” Program.

After the ice-breaking and virtual tour session, the program resumes with a live culinary demonstration of traditional Malaysian cuisine by Mr Aiman. The live culinary sessions, demonstrated the methods to prepare Asam Pedas, stir-fried french beans, omelette, Ikan Terubuk Masin, and Sirap Bandung to the participants.

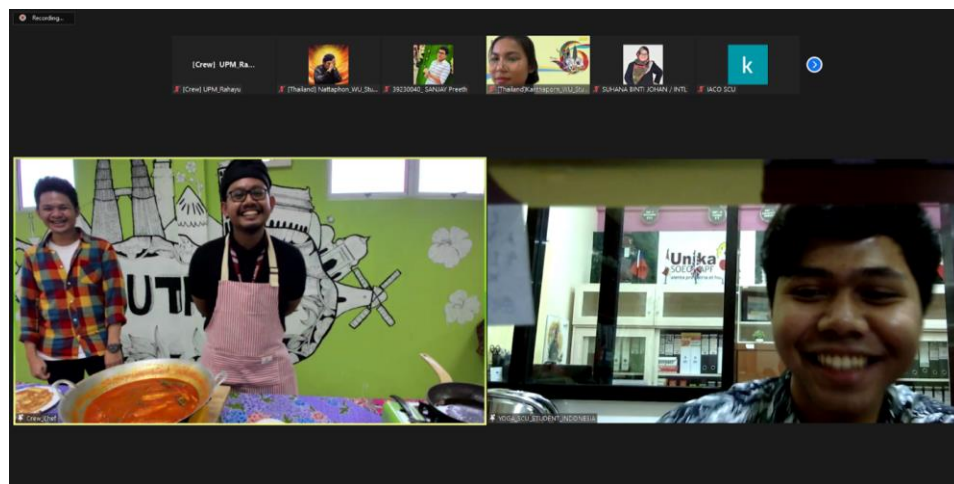


Image: Interactive session with the participants during the live culinary demonstration conducted by Mr Aiman together with Mr Clerence.

The four-hour virtual mobility program concluded around noon and was joined by 35 students from Indonesia, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Pakistan, and Palestine.

Hopefully, the organisation of this program will be the beginning of further collaboration between UPM and SCU.

Prepared by : Siti Hajar

INBOUND STAFF MOBILITY (ISM) 2022 AT INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI SEPULUH NOPEMBER

As part of the effort in the Enrichment of Human Capital, two i-PUTRA staff, Miss Siti Hajar Najiya Mohd Pauzi from the Mobility Section and Miss Junainah Husin from the Administration and Support Service Section were selected to pursue their outbound staff mobility through the Inbound Staff Mobility (ISM) at Institute Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia. The program was held from 06th June 2022 until 11th June 2022 and was joined by staff of 10 universities from different countries such as Thailand, Philippines, Poland, Turkiye, and Malaysia. The delegation from Thailand was made up of staff from 4 different universities; Mahidol University, Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) and King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL). Representing the Philippines were the delegation from the University of St. La Salle (USLS) Bacolod and Agusan Del Sur State College of Agriculture & Technology (ASSCAT). There were also participants from the Poland University of Szczecin and the University of Applied Sciences in Nysa. Istanbul Aydin University (IAU), Turkiye also participated in this ISM programme. Besides UPM, another delegation from Malaysia was the representative from University Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP).



Image: Participants of ISM 2022 Engagement Session in front of the ITS Global Engagement Office.



Image: From the left, Ms Junainah (UPM Representative), Assoc. Prof. Maria Anityasari (Director of ITS Global Engagement), Mr Muh. Wahyu Islami Pratama (Manager for CommTECH & Mobility Program) and Ms Hajar (UPM Representative).

The one-week programme was curated and led by the Global Engagement Office ITS. Some of the activities include ITS Campus Tour, Session with ITS International Office, ITS Innovation Program for Non-Academic Staff and tour of the various department in ITS such as the Library, Human Resources Organization Unit and Student Advisory Centre (SAC). Besides various tours to ITS departments, the organiser also included various cultural activities such as the Fun Indonesian Language and traditional dance lessons taught by the ITS Volunteers. The organiser also organised a day trip to the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park to view the breathtaking sunrise and travel across Bromo's sea of sand to watch the steaming volcanic crater.

ITS also took the opportunity to hold two programs within the inbound mobility staff 2022. One of the programs was the Partnership engagement session in which 21 universities from all over Surabaya were invited to meet the university representatives from the ISM program to discuss various matters, especially pertaining to future cooperation and it was also an opportunity to meet university partners. Some of the universities that joined the partnership session were Universitas Diponegoro, Negeri Yogyakarta, Universitas Jambi and Universitas Riau. Through this session, we were also able to meet one of UPM's long-time partners which is Universitas Riau and other new universities in Surabaya to discuss prospective collaboration .

Besides the engagement session, ITS has also organised the "Let's Study Abroad" program, which is an initiative by the ITS Global Engagement Office to encourage their students to pursue their mobility program abroad. Through this program, participants from the ISM 2022 were given the opportunity to promote their program which includes postgraduate studies and mobility opportunities for ITS' students. The ISM 2022 program concluded on the 11th of June

Through ISM 2022, participants were able to learn and share some of the best practices applied by their universities while at the same time strengthening the bond between partners and opening new doors of opportunities to establish partnerships with new partners. On behalf of i-PUTRA, we wish to express our gratitude for this amazing opportunity provided by the ITS Global Engagement Office.

Prepared by : Jun & Siti Hajar

EARTH DAY

Our planet is an amazing place, but it requires our assistance to thrive! The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a Wisconsin senator organised a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies were held across the country, and by the end of the year, the United States government established the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1990, Earth Day was observed in over 140 countries around the world. That is why, on April 22, more than a billion people worldwide celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from threats such as pollution and deforestation. We make our world a happier, healthier place to live by doing things like picking up litter and planting trees.



Image: Digital Earth Day Poster from PUTRA International Centre



Image: Cooking oil for selling



Image: Infographic poster used to disseminate information regarding some of the initiatives to make our environment better.

On 22 April 2022, iPutra with UPM officers from various entities celebrated Earth Day. Our theme for Earth Day is 5R Reuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recovery. The purpose of Earth Day was to express our support for environmental protection. We also interacted with the Vice-Chancellor via Zoom meeting about our 5R activities on Earth Day. It is important to learn what the five Rs of waste management are in order to understand their importance.

The five Rs refer to a process used by businesses to make the outcome of their recycling programmes better through reducing the amount of waste the company produces. It is important for any company that produces high amounts of waste to use proper waste management programme to keep the environment cleaner and to ensure that all hazardous wastes are safely disposed of. A significant part of the process is implementing the steps known as the five Rs. Each of these steps must be followed to the very last detail in order for the plan to work to its full potential.

MALAY FOLKLORE: LOW NEST WEAVERS



Weavers: also called weaver bird, any of a number of small finchlike birds of the Old World, or any of several related birds that are noted for their nest-building techniques using grass stems and other plant fibres. They are particularly well-known for their roofed nests, which in some African species form complex, hanging woven chambers. Many species of weavers are highly gregarious.

One fine morning in a forest, a group of weaver birds were seen gathering and talking. They are worried about the safety of their children because they do not have a nest. A group of wasps passed near the group of weaver birds. One of the wasps scolded them.

“What are you doing weaver bird? I am amazed to see you all, never in agreement, but different today.” said the wasps.

“We want to make a nest.” said a weaver bird.

“You do not point out cleverly, even though you don't know how to make it.” said the wasps.

The weaver bird was offended by the wasps’ words, but he was patient. He knows that the wasps are good at everything and he wants to ask for help from the wasps.

“If you all need help, I will help you.” offered the wasps.

“Is this true. wasps? Do you all want to help us? Thank you, wasps. You are very kind. We want to make our nests are up high on the trees to be safe.” said the weaver birds.

Although wasps have taught the weaver birds to make nests, the weaver birds do not like the wasps. They have bad feelings about wasps.

“Thank you, wasps, for teaching us how to make nests.” said the weaver bird.

“All right, we are going to go find some honey now.” said the weaver bird. When it was evening, the wasps returned to their nests. What a surprise when the wasps saw that their nests were gone. They searched for their nests but still could not find them. Eventually they spotted their nests, but their nests were already wrapped in dry grass.

“These are our nests. Why are our nests wrapped in dry grass?” ask the wasps.

The wasps could guess that the weaver birds did this. In a fit of rage, the wasps immediately went to the weaver birds’ place. O weaver birds, what have you done to our nests? Those are our nests, you cannot take our nests.

“No. Those are our nests.” said the weaver birds.

“They are not your nests. Your actions are wrong.” said the wasps.

The weaver birds ignored the wasps’ words. The wasps became very angry. They attacked the weaver birds and their families flew to save themselves. From that day, weaver birds are afraid of wasps. They will try to avoid wasps as much as possible.

Reference: Othman Puteh & Aripin Said. (2008). Himpunan 366 Cerita Rakyat Malaysia. Utusan Publication & Distributors Sdn Bhd: Kuala Lumpur. Page 9

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/animal/weaver-bird>



Malay Language: Malay Traditional Dessert

1. Ondeh-ondeh also known as Buah Melaka. This dessert popular in Malacca.



Image: Ondeh-ondeh

2. Burger Malaysia



Image: Burger Malaysia

3. Cek Mek Molek. This dessert is popular in Kelantan.



Image: Cek Mek Molek

4. Koci



Image: Koci