

## WORKSHOP REPORT: SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

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This workshop on Sustainable and Outreach Programme was focused on sharing various **formal** (structured learning in classroom and formal training), **informal** (structured learning outside of the classroom e.g. with community groups) and **non-formal** (learning from daily experience – colleagues, family, friends and other sources) modes of education that can be used to promote sustainability in universities. The workshop was attended by about 25 participants, from various backgrounds, institutions and nationality.

The workshop began with an introduction by the facilitator, an ice-breaking session and a kick-off presentation on the University of Malaya Education and Outreach experience by the UMCares team. The participants were then asked to ponder on two guiding questions to assist the discussion session:

- What successful education and outreach strategies in your university can you share with the group? Why do you consider them successful? What are the main factors that have led to their success?
- What are the main challenges that you face when using education and outreach strategies for sustainable campus?

Based on the discussion, the workshop concluded with three areas of key findings on current practices in Sustainable Education and Outreach Programmes. Details of the discussion can be obtained from Appendix 1.

**(1) Best practices:** Participants from the various universities were able to highlight best practices from various modes of education, be it formal, informal and non-formal education. This shows that the universities in the region have a wealth of experiences that can be usefully shared with each other. Most distinctively, universities from Malaysia, Korea and Japan has more expertise and experience in the area of formal education, while those from the Philippines has impressive know-how in organizing informal education programmes, especially in terms of engagement with local communities. This can be a prioritized area of “regional knowledge-exchange” that can be promoted in the future.

**(2) Success factors:** Five main success factors have been identified: (1) Top-down leadership, (2) bottom-up student leadership, (3) Financial resource and (4) Communication & feedback for continuous improvement, (5) Driving motivation through significant issues for the community (e.g. Typhoon Haiyan)

**(3) Challenges:** Four main challenges have been identified: (1) Recruitment and continuity of quality human resource (2) Incentive and motivation (3) Governance (4) Self-serving mindset.

Finally, the workshop participants agreed wholeheartedly that the “Change of Mindset” is needed to ensure that programmes on education and outreach can be sustained in the long run. Within the religious and culturally rich region of ASEAN, ultimately it is our love for God, nature, country and fellow human beings that drives positive behavior for sustainability. Such Love is translated differently in different countries and communities, and can be fruitfully shared as an inspiration to each other. It was evident that this was the HEART of the matter, as the participant became more spirited and enthusiastic as we came to this conclusion. Perhaps this regional sharing of shared values in ESD can be an interesting dimension to be explored in the upcoming conference. (502 words)