

## Sunway University hosts week-long festival in support of UN Sustainable Development Goals

25 September 2022



Corporate leaders, together with non-governmental organisations, influencers and over 20,000 students from all across the Klang Valley gathered at Sunway University, Sunway City, last week, for a five-day festival of events and activities in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). This event was featured across 40+ countries, garnered around 5.4 million online views and over 500 pickups by local & international media.

The Sept 19-23 (Monday-Friday) festival also celebrated the UNSDG's worldwide initiative of Local Action for Global Goals 2022 that emphasises the need for the world to work together to deliver the Global Goals by 2030, through a range of special events and inspiring activities for all ages and interests.

Opened by Swedish Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr Joachim Bergström, the unique event — the first of its kind in Asia — was also joined by Ambassador of Finland to Malaysia and Brunei, Sami Leino; German Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr Peter Blomeyer; and Deputy Head of Mission at Embassy of Hungary in Malaysia, Anikó Farkas.

Representing the local community was Subang Jaya assemblywoman Michelle Ng, who said, “Slowing climate change requires behavioural change, and it is the duty of governments to facilitate this for its citizens,” according to Sunway University in a statement.



*Tengku Zatashah spoke up about the need for action for the betterment of the planet.*

The occasion was also graced by Selangor Princess Tengku Zatashah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who spoke up about the need for action for the betterment of the planet. “It is truly important how we treat planet earth, other fellow citizens of this planet, and every living being here. With the recent climate change we have been experiencing, we must be very concerned about the state of our planet,” she said.

Besides featured talks, performances, interactive workshops, and corporate displays on sustainability from Volvo, Uniqlo, The Body Shop and Huawei, there were daily flag parades, on-stage demonstrations, a sustainable marketplace and a space to connect with leaders, changemakers, activists and the private sector, according to Sunway University.

A live musical performance, including a heartwarming rendition by the children from the Spastic Children’s Association of Selangor and Federal Territory, also captured the hearts of those who were lucky enough to catch the concert. “A splendid and memorable adaptive fashion show by Dawn Adaptive also ensured the occasion was a truly inclusive event at Sunway University,” the statement read.





*Tengku Zatashah (back row, third from right), Executive Director of Sunway University, Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood (back row, second from right), and Professor Sibrandes Poppema (back row, fourth from right), pose alongside members of the Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and Federal Territory.*

There was also an e-waste collection initiative, where staff and students were able to environmentally dispose of their unwanted electrical items. Since the start of the initiative, over 34,000kg of electrical waste had been collected.

This is on top of daily on-stage demonstrations that included soap making from used cooking oil by Pusat Wanita Berdaya, cooking demonstration of edible vegetable scraps by Professional Culinaire Association Malaysia, and a creative upcycling demonstration by Maslisa Zainuddin from Sunway University.

"The week-long event was an overwhelming success and a great advertisement for Malaysia in the global world of sustainability," said Professor Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the Sunway Education Group. "This is our aim with the Local Action Global Goals 2022 — to educate and re-educate and also to remind everyone that we need to work collectively to bring about sustainable and meaningful change."



*Dr Joachim Bergström writes on a pledge wall.*

President of Sunway University Professor Sibrandes Poppema was very pleased that the event was hosted at Sunway University and said the institution had worked tirelessly to merit its growing reputation as a “Campus With A Conscience”.

“#CampusWithAConscience is an underlying principle that embraces everything students will experience during their time at Sunway College and Sunway University. This is the fundamental spirit at the heart of Sunway Campus Life; educating, encouraging and engaging students in all aspects of a diverse and inclusive community, to support them in adopting a lifestyle and lifestyle habits that truly reflect a society determined to create a better living environment for this generation and generations to come,” the statement read.

## UN SDSN launches its Asia Headquarters in Sunway City, Kuala Lumpur



The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) launched its newest secretariat office in Asia, hosted at Sunway University. The office in Sunway City Kuala Lumpur will serve as SDSN's Asia Headquarters, one of only three such global centers, alongside Paris (overseeing Europe and Africa) and New York City (overseeing The Americas).

The launch of the Asia Headquarters is testimony to the importance of engaging countries in the Asia-Pacific region towards advancing the global sustainable development agenda. The launch comes 10 years after SDSN was established under the auspices of then-UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. SDSN now has a global membership of over 1,700 institutions, of which about 90% are universities.



## UN SDSN Malaysia representatives at UN SDSN Asia Launch



The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) launched its newest secretariat office in Asia, hosted at Sunway University, on 17 November 2022. SDSN Malaysia is the country chapter for the Global SDSN, a network of universities and other knowledge-generating bodies. Collectively, SDSN has 1,700 members, as of December 2022. Each SDSN Chapter comprises members. In SDSN Malaysia there are 22 Member Institutions, as of December 2022. Within each Member Institution, a Focal Point serves as the link between the Member Institution and the Chapter's Secretariat.

A Secretariat convenes this group of institutions and leads its members' participation in SDSN initiatives. The Secretariat links members with opportunities for greater cross-institutional exchange, knowledge transfer, and relationship building.



L – R: Dr Aldrie Amir, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Kong Phui Yi, Sunway University; Dr Fong Chng Saun, Universiti Malaya; Prof Mazlin Mokhtar, SDSN Asia; Assoc Prof Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad, Universiti Malaya; Prof Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman, Universiti Malaya; Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri, Universiti Malaya.

SDSN Members are the backbone of the Malaysia Chapter, and globally SDSN Members are the ones mobilising knowledge to develop solutions practice for sustainable development.

Present physically were Focal Points from Universiti Malaya (Prof Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman, Assoc Prof Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad, Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri); University of Nottingham (Dr Matthew Ashfold); Penang Institute (Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng); Sunway University (Karen Chand, Kong Phui Yi). Representatives from Universiti Utara Malaysia (Dr Masnita Misiran, Dr Saadi Ahmad Kamaruddin) & Universiti Sains Malaysia (Dr Mohd Abd Muin Md Akil) attended online.

In addition, representatives from SDSN Malaysia members attended the networking photo session: Daniel Lee Lih Wei, Sunway University; Dr Aldrie Amir, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Dr Fong Chng Saun, Universiti Malaya.

The office in Sunway City Kuala Lumpur will serve as SDSN's Asia Headquarters, one of only three such global centres, ranking it alongside Paris (overseeing Europe and Africa) and New York City (overseeing The Americas).

Launch speakers included Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President of SDSN and world-renowned economist; Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah AO, SDSN Global Leadership Council member and Chair of SDSN Malaysia; Professor Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the Executive Secretary-General of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.

## Cities of Dreams: what are our challenges and our opportunities?



The ambitious Make it Challenge, co-organised by Sunway University and Sunway iLabs, was designed to inspire participants to create more innovative solutions in the rapidly urbanizing world that we live in. The competition was launched on 8 September 2022, with a fireside chat titled “Creating the Cities of Dreams – Challenges and Opportunities.”

Designed to lay the foundations for participants to begin formulating game-changing ideas, the insightful fireside chat saw experts including Sunway Group’s Group CEO (Digital & Strategic Investments), Evan Cheah; Sunway University Pro Vice-Chancellor and Member of the National Science Council of Malaysia, Professor Mahendhiran Nair; and Sunway Centre for Planetary Health’s Executive Director, Professor Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood sharing their valuable thoughts.

In his opening remarks, Evan reiterated the purpose of the Make It Challenge and emphasized that the participants with game-changing ideas will be fully supported by Sunway Group’s enabling ecosystem, which comprises 13 business units, making it an engine and a launchpad for transformative innovation.

“We have the funds, mentorship and university’s research capabilities and the support of Sunway Group, its partners, and the government.”

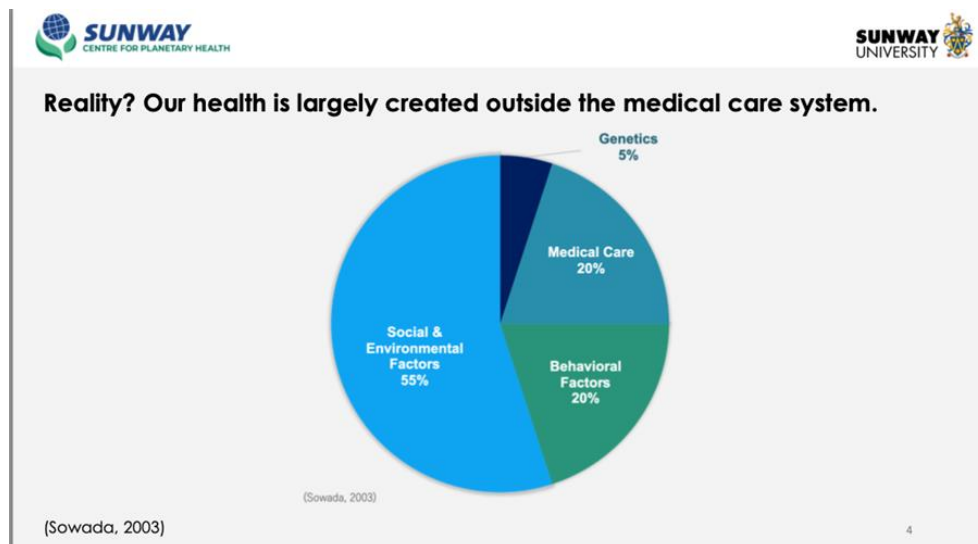
Restating Sunway Group’s commitment and mission to create a sustainable future for all he said, “Sunway has been nation-building over the past 50 years. We have built roads, hospitals, shopping malls, and universities, supporting not-for-profit universities. It’s been something we’ve been doing for a long time and for the next 50 years, we want to have more long-term initiatives – hopefully, good ideas that we can scale up for Malaysia and the world.”

The launch event continued with an eye-opening keynote by Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, followed by a fireside chat moderated by Disruptr Founder and Editor Poovenraj Kanaraj –and featuring Sunway Centre for Planetary Health’s Chief Planetary Health Scientist, Dr Renzo Guinto, DHL Express Malaysia Head of Business Transformation, Liew HunNi, and Sunway Property Head of Research and Analytics Christine Chong Oelofse.



## Protecting human health starts with planetary health

Dedicating her keynote to highlighting the unbreakable link between human health and the health of the planet, Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah began her speech by requesting participants to picture health – and uncovered that while most people relate health to hospitals and the healthcare system, the truth is that health is largely created outside the medical care system.

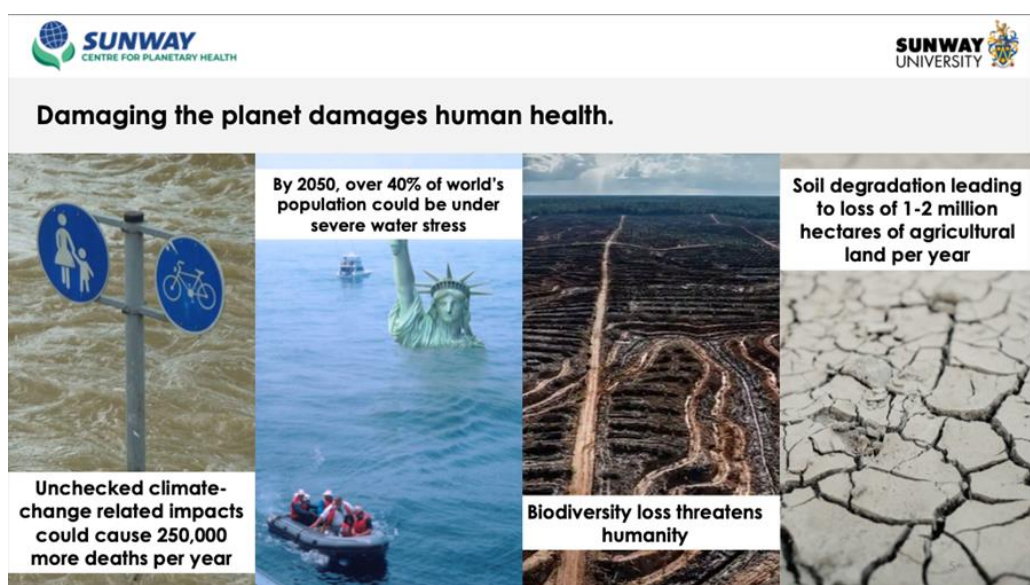


She underscored the urgent need for action and solutions by pointing out that the UN Human Development Report's most recent findings show the devastating impact on billions of people around the world when crises like COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine interact with sweeping social, economic, and planetary shifts including climate change, and related factors.

“Over the past 50 years, humanity has made massive public health gains, but unfortunately, just a couple of hours ago, the UN Human Development Report reported for the first time, that humanity is facing its first back-to-back decline in human development in three decades,” she said.

## Damaging the planet damages human health

Citing even more startling statistics, Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah explained that developmental gains have been made at the expense of the planet.



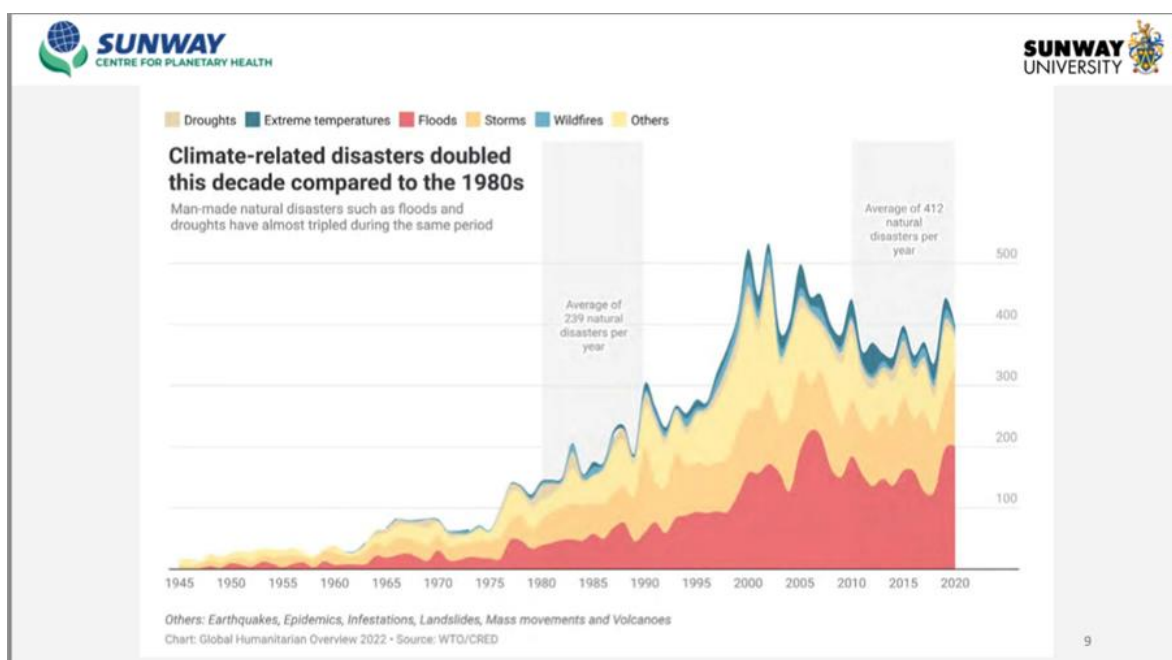
## Damaging the planet damages human health.



“By 2050, it’s estimated that 40 per cent of the world’s population could be under severe water stress. Some islands in the Pacific will disappear, including the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Some parts of coastal Malaysia will be underwater, including some areas in which universities, schools, and businesses are currently located. And these occurrences will be as a direct result of our behaviours, causing climate and environmental degradation.”

“Biodiversity loss threatens humanity. This isn’t just about the cute orangutans or the polar bears; it’s about an entire ecosystem that has gone out of balance. As a result of a loss of biodiversity, animals move. And that is why we get zoonotic leaps where viruses jump from one animal host to another and to us.”

“The population is growing. We need more food, we need more chickens, we need more of everything. And when that happens, we just till the soil with no clear sustainable agricultural practices and therefore the soil also becomes unhealthy.”

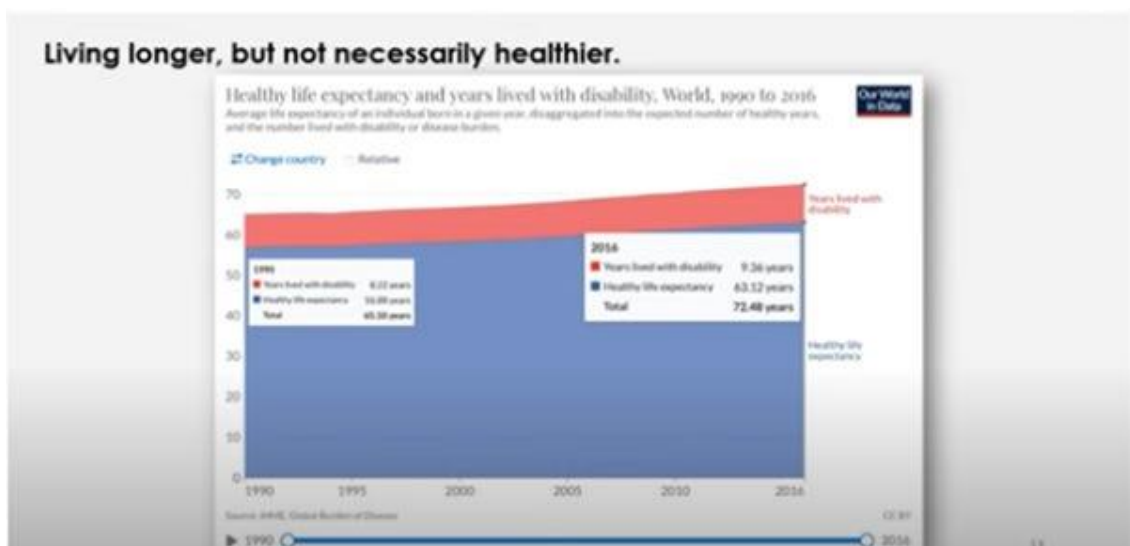




### An urgent call for everyone to take action

Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah shared a study demonstrating that humans are living longer but not more healthily.

“About a year ago, in my capacity as the Public Health Advisor to the Prime Minister, when we looked at health and the transformation of health, we found that people are living longer but they are not living healthier lives.”



She quoted an alarming warning by the Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet commission on planetary health, “We have mortgaged the health of future generations to realize economic and development gains in the present.”

“You in this room who are young should be very angry at us. We have failed you. We have developed with the hope of just increasing GDP, without thinking about your future.”



“We have microplastics in our blood because of all the terrible things we have done to ourselves. The amount of plastic we use. The shampoo, the face wash with those microplastic beads, all that gets into the water, the sea, the fish, everything.”

“The planetary health agenda, simply put, is that we, as human beings cannot thrive without the planet thriving. It needs to be both.”

**SUNWAY**  
CENTRE FOR PLANETARY HEALTH

**THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION**

**THE LANCET**

The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health

Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch:  
report of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health

**PLANETARY HEALTH**

**“the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends”**  
*Lancet-Rockefeller Commission, 2015*

**“the international and interdisciplinary field focused on characterizing and addressing the human health impacts of global environmental change”**  
*Planetary Health Alliance, 2019*

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“Health is more encompassing. It’s not just about health ministries and facilities. It’s also about political, economic, and social systems that must be looked at; how we create the synergy and collaboration required for humanity to survive and thrive. So, it’s about achieving the highest level of health, well-being and equity.”

### **We need to put our cities into a great transition**

Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah underlined that currently our cities are “not built for promoting healthy communities.”

“We don’t have clean air; we have air which is not healthy. Our cities are built more for cars than for people. When we cross the road, we risk dying, being knocked by a car because the roads are just not made for people.”

To illustrate the dire consequences of not putting people at the centre of city development, Professor Dr. Jemilah cited a landmark ruling in Britain where a 9-year-old girl suffered a fatal asthma attack and became the only person in the world to officially have air pollution listed as the cause of death on her death certificate.

“Doctors have failed to recognize that this is a cause of death. The medical training that we received as doctors did not make us realise that the planet is killing us. This is why planetary health is so critical. If you don’t understand the linkages between the planet’s health, your health, and sustainability, then everyone is affected.

“We need to come together now and say that if we want to survive – if we want to thrive, not just survive – we need to have equity. We need to have health. We need to have access to clean air. We need to have an environment that’s safe for children. We need a place to feel safe.”

## **We are both the problem and the solution**

Professor Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah concluded her remarks with a clarion call for action. She also shared some useful tools to empower the audience and to activate further development of solutions, as well as to encourage participants to leverage the Sunway Group's comprehensive ecosystem.

In addition, she shared Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework as a systematic way to think about a more sustainable growth model that ensures planetary boundaries are protected, beyond the sole and often imbalanced pursuit of limitless economic growth.

"Every one of us is responsible for both the damage and the good that is happening on the planet. You and me, all of us."

For the entire keynote address, [watch Professor Tan Sri Jemilah's keynote address.](#)

## Uncovering what make cities great

26 September 2022

Commenced on September 6, Sunway iLabs at Sunway University's annual Make It Challenge hackathon is now in its idea development stage where more than 100 participants are currently developing and validating their solutions within their teams. The programme will culminate in the Demo Day scheduled for October 6, where the top eight teams from each track will present their solutions to a panel of judges.

While the solutions are being developed, we bring you a summary of the fireside chat as a continuation of Professor Tan Sri Jemilah Mahmood's keynote address.

The fireside chat was moderated by Disruptr Founder and Editor Poovenraj Kanagaraj with the panel of experts being Sunway Centre for Planetary Health Chief Planetary Health Scientist Dr Renzo Guinto, DHL Express Malaysia Head of Business Transformation Liew Hun Ni, and Sunway Property Head of Research and Analytics Christine Chong Oelofse.



*From left to right : Sunway Centre for Planetary Health Chief Planetary Health Scientist Dr Renzo Guinto, DHL Express Malaysia Head of Business Transformation Liew Hun Ni, Disruptr Founder and Editor Poovenraj Kanagaraj and Sunway Property Head of Research and Analytics Christine Chong Oelofse.*

### **Smart cities aren't about technology, they are about people**

The fireside chat started with Dr Renzo Guinto acknowledging that there is a rising recognition that cities need to adopt new models of operating because of the myriad challenges faced in cities, as well as pointing out that the end goal of smart cities shouldn't be about the technology but for the people. "More than 60 or even 70 per cent of the world's population are now living in cities. So we now need to start reimagining urban living, in a way that respects planetary boundaries, so at the same time, people will be living healthy and happy lives."

"We need to start thinking about smart cities from a much broader perspective because I think what makes cities very smart are not the 5G and the sensors but ultimately it's about people."



Referring to Sunway City Kuala Lumpur, which currently houses a large student population, Dr Renzo Guinto elaborated, “Sunway City Kuala Lumpur is the home of Sunway University with a lot of young people. There is an enormous concentration of intellectual capital here. You are the ones that make the city smart, not the machines, not the devices that you are using.”

Agreeing with Dr Renzo Guinto, Christine Chong Oelofse referenced Songdo International Business District in Korea as a popular case study for smart city planners which is one of the most revolutionary in terms of technology, yet was not designed for people and therefore, failed to attract a vibrant community.

Elaborating on the Songdo case study, Christine said, “The city has the best technologies in place. They have the highest concentration of LEED-certified green buildings, they have all the technology in place, they have thermostats at home, and you can control everything remotely. But the city failed in creating a vibrant community. They have a target population of 300,000 but currently, less than half the target is living there. Everything feels robotic in the city as everything is computerized.”

“It’s a technological success but there is no human warmth. Smart cities aren’t just about technology. There needs to be a multidisciplinary approach because we need to have safety and security, energy efficiency, and community creation. That approach, I think, is the ultimate thing that makes a city work.”

“Smart cities need time to scale up so you need time to evolve with the community needs, not just the technological advancements.”

Hun Ni said that while governments have aspirations to build smart cities and that it is a great starting point, there are also challenges. She forwarded that the challenges can be solved by bringing stakeholders together.

“Smart cities shouldn’t just be about the technology. It is about the people. It is about the citizens who are living there and what their needs are, but it’s also about the private sectors and the collaborations with the government. It is about health, it is about infrastructure and the environment.”

She suggested more dialogues, collaboration, and other efforts to bring stakeholders together to discuss the situation and work together to achieve results.

“If we can get people living in the city, working in the city, doing business in the city and the government of the cities to understand the dire straits that we are in, there will be a will. And when there is a will, everyone will start to come together and find solutions, but if there’s not there and everyone has their interests in mind, we will never be able to make progress.”

“When people think about smart cities, perhaps a lot of people start from the technological perspective. So perhaps you know in most people’s minds, a smart city is just where we leverage technology – it’s about digitalization, it’s about connectivity, it’s about connectedness - people do talk about the quality of life, but that doesn’t seem to be the main area of focus.”

She said that the challenge, ultimately, is to get the buy-in from everyone for people-centric development.

### **Leadership is crucial**

Dr Renzo Guinto added to the conversation by saying that to advance urban transformation, a crucial ingredient is leadership.

“The most critical ingredient for success is leadership from the top, not just at the individual level but the leadership of organizations. For example, you have Sunway Group as a leader in this part of Malaysia leading that transformation. I think that’s a good thing because that creates momentum and sets a positive example to all the other neighbouring organizations and stakeholders.”

“When you are saying that you want a sustainable city, you want to be a healthy city, you want to be a digital city, you want to be a resilient city (resilient to the climate crisis and disasters) if you are the mayor, the CEO, and your organization should be setting the example and leading, others will follow. And you know once there’s positive behaviour which is seen by others, it can be as contagious as COVID.”

“Imagine - if different organisations and different companies and different government agencies are nudging each other and applying positive pressure on each other, we will be able to create the critical mass that will enable transformation.”



*Sunway Centre for Planetary Health Chief Planetary Scientist Dr Renzo Guinto with DHL Express Malaysia Head of Business Transformation Liew Hun Ni.*

### **The DHL Case Study for transformation towards sustainability**

Hun Ni ventured into DHL’s sustainability transformation as a case study for the participants.

“DHL has almost 600,000 employees and we exist in over 220 countries and territories.”

“Our Group CEO, Dr. Frank Appel has always believed that as a corporate citizen with such influence in every corner of the world, we can make a difference. Sustainability has been at the top of our agenda and we have a goal that was publicly announced which is to achieve zero emission by 2050.”

“70% of our greenhouse gases are actually from air transport. So, we are looking at sustainable aviation fuel and one of our aims by 2030 is to have at least 30 per cent or more sustainable fuels. We are also looking at e-planes, which are electric planes capable of flying a short distance. On the ground, our goal is to have at least 60 per cent of our vehicle fleet to be electric.”

“There are challenges and we do recognize that, but taking that leadership role, and by us taking action, we hope to spur our competitors and other companies to do the same and contribute to planetary health.”

On the rising importance of ESG, Hun Ni said, “A lot of companies are starting to realise that it is crucial to be sustainable. A lot of our customers now ask us what’s your sustainability roadmap and what’s your action plan. And what it means is that more and more companies will become conscious of this and it’s a good thing.”

“Companies are realizing that if there’s going to be a movement and they are not jumping on the bandwagon, they will lose out in terms of value. Value in terms of reputation and everything.”

“If you go on Google right now, ESG is a hot topic and that’s a great thing for the world. More and more companies eventually will feel pressure to do something about it so I’m optimistic about it.”

Hun Ni explained that DHL is currently measuring their ESG data to ensure that they are on track.

“We have clocked a million miles using our e-vehicles, which represents about 20 per cent of our vehicles. We have facilities that are using green energy so about 58 per cent of all our facilities are ISO certified. We have ISO certification in either energy management or environmental management for our facilities. The CEO has made this a key objective for the Board of Management so that there is skin in the game for everyone.”

Explaining one of the key challenges for DHL, Hun Ni said, “One of the key challenges we were facing is that there are no commercial EVs in Malaysia. We have a lot of private vehicles but nobody was importing and bringing in EVs for commercial use. It took us over three years, but we have finally identified a partner and placed some orders.”

“The availability of chargers right now is the second challenge. When you have a private car and you’re driving, you have access to all the charging stations. But if you’re a business and you have courier vehicles that need to be charged, we need to build that infrastructure. We have to build chargers within our facilities for efficiency purposes.”

According to Hun Ni, DHL is currently in discussion with various stakeholders to advance the availability of chargers for commercial vehicles.

### **Challenges In Cities**

Christine then elaborated that in a rapidly urbanizing Malaysia, congestion is a major challenge for city makers.

“Congestion is a major thing. Today I came to the University and I was quite surprised because I normally leave the office at six. I left at four today and it was already congested! As I understand everyone had their drivers pick up their children from school. Traffic congestion would be a key problem.”

“Another thing is perhaps urban sprawl where the city has to grow bigger and bigger and beyond its initial boundaries but people need to go into the city or the suburbs to work. That also means that more infrastructure needs to be built, and more developments need to be built. This also causes some



environmental impact if it's not managed properly, for example, flood. New flood hotspots are emerging around the country.

"The third thing perhaps would be pollution and waste. There is still no reduction in waste. I think it's more about habits. Malaysians are not used to the idea of reducing waste or segregating waste, unlike in other countries. That's one fundamental thing I hope will change over time. Waste management is very critical because when there are more people, it would mean that there will be more and more waste. And if there are more people, we need more landfills. And if you don't reduce waste, we will run out of landfills by 2050."

"Lastly, one of the key urbanisation issues I see across cities, but not, particularly Malaysia is urban slums."

Christine opines that everyone has a role to play in developing healthy, sustainable cities. She said, "If you ask me again how or what we can do or communities can do to stay pleasant, I think firstly, maybe each of us can try to help out a little bit by starting to utilize the public transportation system."

"If every one of us starts walking a little bit more, riding a bicycle, or utilising public transportation, maybe we can help the planet a little bit. We could also practice waste segregation. These are just the fundamentals that each of us can do while the government, private sectors, or startups out there work on solutions that require a lot of collaboration to make cities more integrated, and more connected, then we will be on track."

### **What is your vision of a Dream City?**

The fireside chat concluded with a discussion of what each speaker's vision of a dream city would look like.

Dr Renzo forwarded, "Young people today still want to live in cities because of the conveniences and the opportunities that they offer, but at the same time, they are hungry and thirsty for clean air, green space and more nature. So, maybe the challenge now is that the next generation of cities is how to make sure the future cities are not cities made of cement and cars but more of nature, more of greens and blues."

"There is an opportunity for rewilding or bringing back the animals and plants that we have removed from these cities that used to be natural ecosystems. So that's one project to lead that renaissance of health and healthy living in these urban settings. When we do, that it's not just our physical health that improves, it's not just our health that improves, because of cleaner air, and cleaner water - it's the health of our brains and our hearts."

"We know that stressful life in the city can also affect our mental and emotional well-being. And you know I would like to see cities being ranked not in terms of only economic productivity and progress but also inclusivity and also collective mental and emotional well-being."

"I hope to see cities that are ranked by which are the happiest in the world because they are living not just in prosperity but also in harmony with nature and amongst each other."

"I think at the end of the day, it's all about preserving human dignity in the life of a rapidly urbanizing planet."

"When we talk about numbers, we often forget about the human beings behind the numbers and often in cities, we feel invisible like we're just seen as a collection of people rather than human beings

who have dignity that needs to be preserved, and human beings who have health that needs to be protected and advanced.”

“I hope that health will feature more in the urban agenda in this century and I guess planetary health. Planetary health is about the health of people and planet and I think it provides us with a very powerful framework to move this agenda forward.”

Dr Renzo added that he would like to see a doughnut city that embraces planetary health and the doughnut economy model.

“It is still very possible to live well in a city in an urban setting for everyone, not just some people. I think the issue of equity and justice is also quite important. Everyone needs to enjoy the fullest, a full life, and the highest level of health and well-being while at the same time - not breaching the planet’s boundaries, not emitting carbon that the environment cannot absorb, not destroying ecosystems to the detriment of all creatures great and small.”

Hun Ni in agreement with Dr Renzo said that her vision for a great city is where people with different needs can have them met.

“We want inclusive cities where we do something that meets the needs of everybody. I think for me a dream city would address the needs of the different parts of society.”

She added, “If you’re talking about sustainability as well, I think we have got to remember about governance and compliance as well. You want to be a city that is clean and doing the right thing. For a city to be sustainable, for a city to flourish, for a city to be attractive to investors, we’ve got to make sure that the city is based on the right values, and doing the right thing for sustainability.”

Christine shared her experience growing up in Raub, a small village in Pahang and related her personal story of why she moved to the city.

“I grew up in a very green environment as I live in the countryside but there is a lack of education, lack of good medical care, and course, that’s how I came to KL. Of course, I studied here but eventually, I returned here to work and pursued my MBA at Sunway University.”

She said that Sunway City Kuala Lumpur’s agglomeration of conveniences within walking distance was her dream for a better city.

“I bought my house in Sunway City so when my parents get old they can just go to the medical centre or they can just go downstairs to do some grocery shopping by themselves. I don’t need to worry they will get knocked down by cars if they cross the big roads.”

## Innovative energy solutions trump at Sunway's Make It Challenge Hackathon 18 October 2022



*From left: Muhammad Nazim, Muhammad Hazim bin Mohamed Khir, Sunway Group Chief Innovation Officer and Sunway iLabs Director Matt Van Leeuwen, Kalidasan Balasubramanian, iLabs Foundry Director Karen Lau Kai Zhia*

Sunway iLabs' sixth installation of its annual Make It Challenge which was launched on Sept 6 had seen more than 100 participants race to tackle the world's most pressing challenge, sustainable cities.

On Oct 6, eight selected teams battled it out on Demo Day to win the hearts of the judges to be crowned the winners of the Make It Challenge.

The Best Innovation Award went to Team Energy for their sustainable energy-utilising phase-changing materials, while Team Ippudo was crowned the Grand Prize Winner (Student Track) for their kinetic energy solution. The first runner-up went to team Mechaseed for their IoT-enabled socket that aims to reduce energy usage.

### **Using sustainable phase change materials to manage thermal comfort in buildings**

Kalidasan Balasubramanian, Muhammad Hazim bin Mohamed Khir and Muhammad Nazim who are first and second-year doctoral students pursuing their PhD in Sustainability Science and Technology (Research Centre for Nanomaterial & Energy Technology) of Team Energy invented a way to manage thermal comfort in buildings through the integration of sustainable phase change materials.

A phase change material (PCM) is a substance which releases or absorbs energy at phase (gas to solid etc) transition to provide useful heat or cooling properties.

Sharing how they came up with the idea, the team said that they had cycled through many ideas before arriving at the solution that they were going to build.



“Initially we had multiple lines of thoughts – to work on waste management, sustainable foods and traffic control systems et cetera.”

“We found that in Malaysia commercial buildings consume 38,645 GWh of electric power and residential buildings consume 24,709 GWh. Of these, a major part of the total energy consumption is used for cooling systems for buildings. Based on the experimental research and analysis, phase change materials are highly significant in managing the thermal comfort of buildings via energy storage applications, which will be highly reliable in near future.”

“Phase change materials are, unfortunately, not highly popular as of yet and there is very little awareness of their ability to contribute to climate action. We would like for more people to be aware of the existence of these materials. By pitching their ability to manage the thermal comfort of a building, we were able to create visibility for the materials’ ability to be utilised as energy storage to other participants and the judges.”

“Global warming is one of the greatest threats to human health attributed to thermal power plants emissions. We wanted to find a way to reduce energy utilisation from air conditioning units.”

“We looked into some of our research to see if there are any applicable ones for the solution. As it turns out, one of the research areas that we have been working on over the past four years has significant potential in resolving the huge energy use challenge. The integration of phase change materials into buildings is a viable solution towards zero emissions.”

According to the team, they found two segments of the Make It Challenge to be interesting: the production of the six-minute video submission and the opportunity to learn how to communicate in a public forum.

“It was very motivating, specifically when we get feedback from business executives such as directors and managers to share their feedback on our idea. We were able to interest those who are keen on sustainable solutions for green buildings using phase change materials.”

With regards to their most interesting learnings, the team said, “We also learnt how to creatively communicate the technical aspects of our invention in terms that are understandable to laypeople, through our video creation and our prototype. We also learnt design thinking and techniques to commercialise our new product as well as learn many interesting ideas on how to pitch to investors.”

The team said that one of the great benefits of participating in the Make It Challenge was that they had received support from their teammates and mentors as well guidance from their own PhD supervisors, Professor Ardash Kumar Pandey and Professor Saidur Rahman which lent them the confidence to stick with their ideas.

Moving forward, the team is planning to engage the market through social networks, seminars, workshops etc. to gain customers. Their short-term plan is to work with investors to manufacture more of their solution for real use in small-scale operations as a cooling solution. The team also looks forward to exploring expanding to utilising their solution for large-scale operations and applications such as laptop cooling bags, vehicles, and more.

“For future participants, we would like to suggest that they each be confident with the idea they have come up with and try to pitch it in a flow with good storytelling. MIC can also be a great platform to showcase your work in front of investors and customers. Choose a great team with strong supervision that can help you to solve the existing challenges. Moreover, if you have a prototype, that’s even better.

All in all, do your best, whether you succeed or not, it will be a fantastic learning experience for every individual.”

### Using footsteps to produce clean electricity

Sunway University Year 1 ICAEW student Joey Ngan Keh Tyan, Year 1 ACCA student Tan Dei Lonn, Computer Science Year 3 students Ko Jia Xin and Lam Hao Cheng of Team Ippudo created WalkIT, a unique technology that produces clean, off-grid electricity all through the power of feet.



*From left: Joey Ngan Keh Tyan, Ko Jia Xin, Tan Dei Lonn, Lam Hao Cheng, and iLabs Foundry Director Karen Lau Kai Zhia*

“The idea came to us when our team was discussing our idea in the college foyer. We noticed that a generous amount of lights and fans were all being turned on. Recalling a Coldplay concert in the UK, we remembered that the organisers had installed kinetic floors to generate energy. It was interesting to see all the Coldplay fans jumping and dancing on the floor, to send an environmental message to all.”

“Sunway University, being ‘the most happening campus’ always has a large number of students around the campus, and kinetic energy could be the key solution for Sunway University to add to its solution. Kinetic energy from all the student activity is an additional resource which would be wasted if we do not utilise it. The massive increase of Sunway students on campus will enable us to retrieve unlimited energy that can be converted into electricity. This not only preserves the reusable source of power but also encourages people to be physically active.”

Elaborating on the benefits of their participation, the team said, “Participating in the Make it Challenge helped us gain more experience and allowed us the opportunity to network with like-minded people. We had the opportunity to make a sustainable change in Sunway City Kuala Lumpur and give back to society through our solution. By joining the challenge we improved our critical thinking process and analytical skills.”

“If we have the chance, we would like to pitch our business idea to Sunway Group’s Sustainability team to bring our idea into action, as we believe that our technology can be the future of renewable energy. We will continue to research tiles and technology to expand our idea. We hope that one day the busiest

pathways in Sunway College & University, Sunway Pyramid, canopy walks will be laid out with WalkIT tiles.”

“We learnt so much from all of the insightful workshops provided by Sunway iLabs. Our team especially enjoyed the storytelling and business model workshops, which helped progress our thinking process. On the day of the pitch, we gained a lot of insights and were enlightened by the other team’s ideas and pitching style. Furthermore, the judges’ have provided us with valuable feedback about our idea.”

“We learnt that teamwork makes the dream work. In a short time, we were able to build trust and develop good chemistry, split the tasks, and play our individual roles in completing each part of the pitch. We worked together to ensure the flow and content of the pitching were smooth. Throughout the sleepless nights, we were each other’s support system in preventing burnout despite the super tense preparation period.”

“As a team, time constraints and insufficient information during our ideation were the main challenges that haunted us throughout the entire competition. In addition, we were occupied with busy timetables, which added to our difficulty in meeting the due dates of submission.”

“We constantly motivated each other and made time to complete our tasks. Furthermore, our mentor was always there for us and gave us a lot of encouragement and support. Research and beforehand preparation are crucial to maximising your winning chance.”

“Trust your teammates and work together to bring out the best of your ideas. Even in times of doubt, share your research with your teammates and progress slowly together.”

#### **A switch that can track electrical usage and encourage users to conserve electricity**

Team Mechaseed comprise Sunway University students Cheah Kar Sheng (BSc (Hons) Computer Science who is in Year 3, Chua Fang Yiak BSc (Hons) Information Technology (Computer Networking and Security who is in Year 2, Daniel Wong Yu Heng BSc (Hons) Information Technology (Computer Networking and Security who is in Year 3, and Vishwa A/L Moorthy (BSc (Hons) Information Technology (Computer Networking and Security) who are in Year 2.

The team came up with the idea of an IoT-enabled smart socket, which they called an E-switch.



*From Left: Vishwa A/L Moorthy, Cheah Kar Sheng, Chua Fang Yiak, Daniel Wong Yu Heng and iLabs Foundry Director Karen Lau Kai Zhia*

The E-switch aims to minimize unnecessary wastage of electricity and to enable more efficient management of electricity usage in households and buildings. According to the team, the product could help people conserve electricity.

“With the E-switch we would be able to have a more efficient way of managing and tracking people’s daily electrical usage and incorporate a degree of convenience to encourage people to conserve electricity. This would ultimately help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the excessive production of electricity. Reducing the carbon footprint will directly minimize the negative effects of climate change and global warming.”

During the Make It Challenge, the students built a prototype for both the mobile application and the semi-functioning socket hardware in a span of three weeks.

The team members shared that they had participated in the Make It Challenge as they were intrigued by the challenge’s theme, and could very much relate to it.

“We wanted to challenge ourselves to take up this opportunity and try to build a more sustainable environment for the cities of future generations. For us, we believe the most beneficial part of the Make It Challenge was the intense mentoring from Sunway alumni and industry professionals because of the various eye-opening feedback and opinions we received from their perspectives.”

“The most insightful thing we learnt was the potential future enhancements we could do as an actual product in various industries from our mentors. The most challenging part, hands down, was building the prototype for both the mobile application and the semi-functioning socket hardware in a span of three weeks only.”

For the future participants of the Make It Challenge, the team had some advice: “Fear not if you think you are not good enough to compete. Anyone and everyone willing to make a difference in the community, no matter the scale, is highly encouraged to participate in Make It Challenge. The experience that could be gained from this amazing challenge is something worth trying out!”



## German Unity Day 6 December 2022



On German Unity Day, The German Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Peter Blomeyer said climate crisis and the environment was this year's topic for the celebration. An exhibition related to the issue was held at Sentul Depot, in collaboration with Sunway University and Sunway College Kuala Lumpur, German companies in Malaysia, Malaysian German Chamber of Commerce, a German school in Kuala Lumpur and the German Agency for International Cooperation.

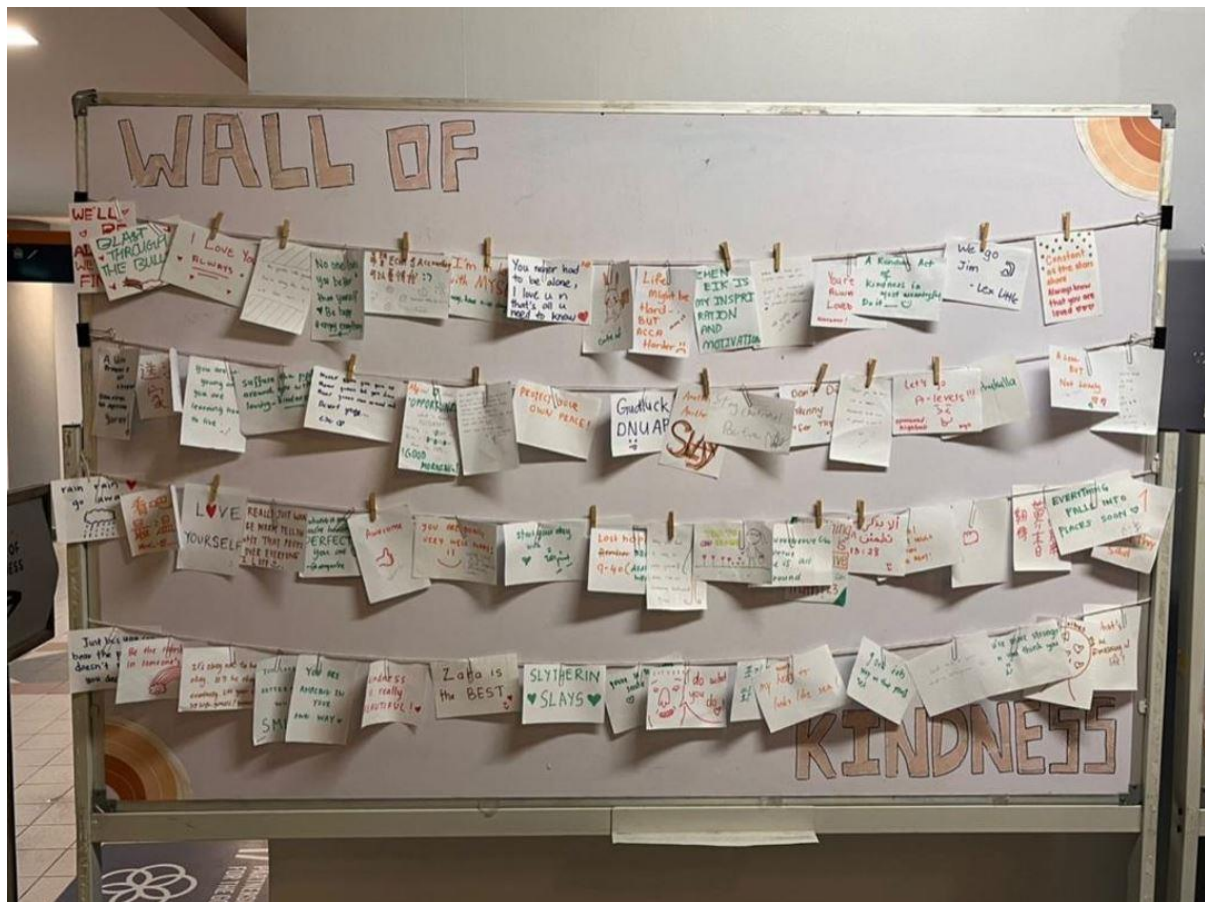
"We must not get distracted from jointly tackling the most urgent challenge to humankind: climate change. Therefore, we decided to make the climate crisis and the environment this year's topic of our National Day and invite you to an exhibition in this beautiful industrial hall. The exhibition aims at demonstrating the problems we are facing and what can be done to solve them, faithful to the United Nations SDGs motto "Local Actions for Global Goals". We are proud to have Sunway University and Sunway College Kuala Lumpur as a partner in this exhibition. Some thirty students describe the story of climate change with facts and figures and sketches and models", he said at the German Unity Day celebration.

Companies involved in this national day celebration include Airbus, Audi automobiles, BASF Chemicals, Bauer Construction and Foundations, Bayer Chemicals, Beckhoff Automating Technologies, BMW automobiles, Bosch Technologies, Deutsche Bank, Fresenius medical devices, Greencells solar plants, Henkel Chemicals, Infineon semiconductors, Lufthansa Airlines, the law firm Luther, MAN Energy Solutions, MAN Trucks, Mercedes-Benz automobiles, Naue geotechnical project solutions, Rieckermann process technologies for industries, Schott Glas, Siemens industry technology, Trox air conditioning, VW automobiles, and Würth industry services.





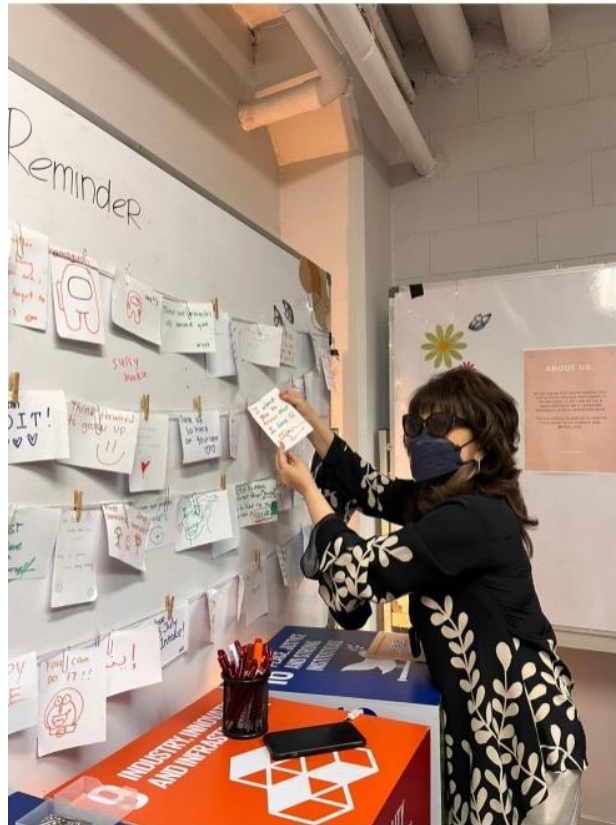
**A SDSN Malaysia youth initiative: Victoria University students create wall of kindness**  
**7 December 2022**



From the 15th of August to the 25th of August 2022. A wall of boards was put up along a Sunway College hallway to entice passers-by to come be a part of a wall. A wall that contained handwritten messages on kindness.

This project implements SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing Target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promoting Mental Wellbeing within a tertiary education institution.

The project is advised by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Malaysia Chapter Secretariat, the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC). In January 2022, JSC convened a group of six youth leaders to implement SDG-related projects, with the eventuality of becoming the Malaysian SDSN Youth chapter. The Wall of Kindness is the group's second initiative.



"Sometimes all that is needed to draw out the kindness that sits in the hearts of each and every one-off is, is a wall," reflects one of the anonymous student organisers from the Victoria University Programme in Sunway College.



Hearts were moved as pen met paper through the span of these days. Words of kindness, consideration and thoughtfulness came pouring in. There were 240 number of notes.

Contributions were greater than anticipated, there simply was not enough space on the walls for all the notes flooding in! One of the best problems to have. Some notes had to be momentarily removed to create space for more.

Such a picture speaks volumes of the potential in the Sunway Education Group to embody a culture of kindness and warmth that can spread far and wide.