



## CAMPUS WITH A CONSCIENCE

March 2024 | Issue #12

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to be sharing with you the latest Campus With A Conscience e-Bulletin.

Thank you to those who have been continuously contributing to the sustainability efforts across Sunway College and Sunway University.

The latest bulletin covers the sustainability efforts of clubs & societies, schools and departments from all across our #MostHappeningCampus.

This month's edition leads with Professor Dato Elizabeth Lee's visit to the Rhodes Trust, University of Oxford for a fireside chat titled "Leading by Doing: A Case Study of Sustainability and Education in Harmony" that was attended by Rhodes Scholars from various nations.

In addition, All Blacks legend and double World Cup winner, Sonny Bill Williams shared with enthusiastic and passionate youth on how sports is "More than Just a Game" in an inspiring discussion moderated by local star Harith Iskander, Malaysia's squash champion, Datuk Nicol Ann David, as well as prominent humanitarian activist Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood.

Thank you for taking your time to read through the CWAC eBulletin and please do feel free to share our Campus With A Conscience updates with all your family, friends and associates.

## Sustainability and education in harmony

28 November 2023



Professor Dato Elizabeth Lee recently visited the Rhodes Trust, University of Oxford to deliver a fireside chat titled “Leading by Doing: A Case Study of Sustainability and Education in Harmony”.

The chat which was attended by Rhodes Scholars from various nations, was moderated by Rhodes Dr Elizabeth Kiss, the Warden and CEO of Rhodes House, the first woman to hold these positions.

The Rhodes Trust, established in 1902, is a prestigious international scholarship organisation known for the Rhodes Scholarship. The trust provides scholarships to exceptional students from around the world, including Malaysia, to study at the University of Oxford. The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the oldest and most celebrated international fellowship awards globally. It aims to develop outstanding leaders who are committed to public service. The selection criteria is focused on academic excellence, personal energy, ambition for impact, and an ability to work with others and achieve one’s goals. The Trust’s mission extends beyond providing educational opportunities; it also seeks to foster international understanding and peace.

During the fireside chat, Professor Elizabeth Lee shared Sunway’s history of excellence and the Group as pioneer in sustainability. She shared Sunway’s journey from “Wasteland to Wonderland”, Sunway today as an integrated green township where the Sunway Education campus is located. “One would not have guessed that almost 50 years ago, the place was a desolate abandoned tin mine. The Sunway Group’s journey and commitment to sustainable development continues today across all its business units particularly its Education division.

“With environmental sustainability indelibly ingrained in its DNA, the Sunway Education Group strives to nurture youths who will advocate for sustainable practices, protect the Earth’s ecosystem and preserve its natural resources for future generations”.

A dinner was hosted by the Rhodes Trust, in honour of Professor Dato Elizabeth Lee's visit. Attendees included Rhodes Trust trustees, current and former scholars from Malaysia and Singapore, as well as distinguished partners of the trust. It was Professor Dato Elizabeth Lee's honour to also meet with Malaysia Rhodes scholar, Qi Kuan Khoo, who hails from Kuantan, Pahang, and is currently pursuing an MSC in Social Data Science, and Singaporean Rhodes Scholars Dr Ann Hui Ching and Hazeem Nasser.

Professor Dato' Dr Elizabeth extended an invitation to Dr Kiss and her esteemed team from the Rhodes Trust, inviting them to visit the Sunway Education Group's campus and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation in 2024.





## Sunway University to host prestigious global events in 2024

08 February 2024



### Sunway University to Host Prestigious Global Events in 2024

In a historic move, Sunway University in Malaysia has been chosen as the host venue for two significant international events in 2024, marking a milestone for the country's academic and research landscape.

#### **Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM): Shaping the Future, Nurturing the Planet Date: 16-19 April, 2024**

For the first time ever, the prestigious Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM) will be held outside the United States, and Sunway University's Sunway Centre for Planetary Health has been entrusted with the honour of hosting this global gathering. PHAM, scheduled from April 16 to 19, 2024, will bring together leading experts, researchers, and practitioners worldwide to explore innovative solutions and collaborative strategies addressing the critical intersection of human health and the health of our planet.

Attendees can anticipate engaging discussions, insightful keynote speakers, and the opportunity to contribute to the collective effort to ensure a sustainable and healthy future for future generations. Sunway University's commitment to planetary health aligns seamlessly with the objectives of PHAM, making it an ideal venue for this groundbreaking event.

For more details on PHAM 2024, visit [here](#).

#### **Times Higher Education Asia Universities Summit (THE): Igniting Excellence, Fostering Collaboration Date: 29 April - 1 May, 2024**

In another historic feat, Sunway University will host the Times Higher Education Asia Universities Summit (THE) from April 29 to May 1, 2024. This marks the first time in the history of THE that Malaysia has been selected as the summit's host country. The summit, known for bringing together leaders in

higher education across the Asia-Pacific region, will provide a platform for dialogue on advancing academic excellence, research collaboration, and innovation.

The selection of Sunway University as the venue for THE underscores Malaysia's growing prominence in the global education landscape. Attendees can expect thought-provoking discussions, collaborative networking opportunities, and a chance to explore the vibrant academic environment fostered by Sunway University.

For more details on the THE Summit, visit [here](#).

Both events promise enriching experiences, offering a unique blend of academic rigour, international perspectives, and the warm hospitality for which Malaysia is renowned. Sunway University stands proud as the host, contributing to the global discourse on planetary health and higher education excellence. As the world converges in Malaysia for these groundbreaking summits, Sunway University emerges as a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and collaboration on the global stage.

**Enriching knowledge exchange session between SDSN Thailand and SDSN Malaysia at Sunway University**  
**05 January 2024**



*Delegation with Prof. Woo Wing Thye, Vice-President of SDSN Asia and Head of the Kuala Lumpur office and Prof. Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University.*

On December 13th and 14th, 32 administrators from 16 public and private universities in Thailand visited the host institution of Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Malaysia and SDSN Asia office, Sunway University. This visit is part of "A Sustainable City Experience: Study Tour of Sunway University" - a two-day study tour program co-organized by both SDSN Thailand and SDSN Asia.



The study tour involved roundtable discussions with Sunway University Leadership and SDSN colleagues, as well as a campus tour. The SDSN Asia team shared about the different programs such as networks, Science Panel for Southeast Asia Biodiversity Protection, Mission 4.7, the Asean Green Future, SDG Academy, poverty eradication and designing institutions for good governance. The delegation also gained insights on Sunway's student engagement and innovative programs, Sunway University's MPU Compulsory courses and SDG Education staff module by the SDG Academy.

The second day of the tour concluded with a special visit and remarks by Tan Sri Sir Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, Founder and Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and SDSN Leadership Council member.



*Tan Sri Sir Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, Founder and Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and SDSN Leadership Council member and Prof. Woo Wing Thye, Vice-President of SDSN Asia and Head of the Kuala Lumpur office with delegation.*



**More than just a game with double world cup winner Sonny Bill Williams**  
**20 February 2024**



We had the pleasure of welcoming the legendary Sonny Bill Williams, a rugby titan, to the #MostHappeningCampus today! Joined by esteemed figures such as Tan Sri Dr Jemilah, Datuk Nicol Ann David, and the witty Harith Iskander, we went into the profound theme of 'More than Just a Game,' bridging peace and development of Malaysia's young minds. A historic conversation that went beyond sports, inspiring and empowering the next generation.

Thank you to the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) and the New Zealand High Commission for organising this impactful event.













**Sunway Centre for Planetary Health partners with School of Hospitality to investigate tourist perspectives at Rimba Ilmu**  
**11 January 2024**



In preparation for the Planetary Health Summit 2024, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health collaborates with the School of Hospitality and Service Management to look into tourist perspectives at Rimba Ilmu, a botanical garden located at Universiti Malaya. We were greeted by Dr Yong Kien Thai and Dr Fong Chng Saun who shared about the collections of living plants in the botanical gardens and insightful narratives on botany in Malaysia.









## The role of universities in rural development

06 February 2024



Universities play a huge role when it comes to two SDGs, Quality Education (UN-SDG4) AND Partnerships for the Goals (UN-SDG17) -The Malaysian school system is set to commence in March 2024. A significant challenge faced by many children from disadvantaged families in both rural and urban-poor areas is the inability to afford essential school supplies such as uniforms and bags. Due to financial constraints, these children often share uniforms, shoes, and bags with their siblings.

Over the past three years, academics from Sunway University have collaborated closely with school administrators, parent-teacher associations, community organisations, and industry stakeholders in various localities to garner support for these underprivileged children. The accompanying images, taken on February 4, 2024, in Carey Island, showcase the team's efforts in collaboration with three schools and local stakeholders to provide students with the necessary resources to prepare for the upcoming school semester. This initiative has positively impacted more than 100 students.

The enduring and robust relationships in these communities have resulted in positive developmental outcomes for rural children, including improved access to essential resources, ICT services, dedicated teachers, and online materials. These initiatives are beginning to enhance teaching and learning outcomes in rural areas, specifically among this demographic. Sunway academics have documented the results of these long-term partnerships in reputable journals and outlets.

For those interested in learning more about the team's projects on multi-dimensional poverty and values-based development models, you can reach out to Professor Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair, Daniel Lee Lih Wei or Professors Santha Vaithilingam or Pervaiz Ahmed. Additionally, individuals interested in pursuing a PhD in this field can contact them, as Sunway University offers a competitive PhD scholarship scheme with the next application deadline on March 1, 2024.

**Postgraduate students from the School of Medical and Life Sciences win awards from WWF Malaysia Climate Communication Challenge  
28 February 2024**



Two postgraduate students from School of Medical and Life Sciences won two awards in the Climate Communication Challenge 2023 organised by WWF Malaysia. Soong Wei Si (MSc in Life Sciences), one of the recipients of the Special Jury award, received RM1,000 cash prize; meanwhile Tan Yi Huan (Phd in Biology) is one of the recipients of Outstanding Award and received RM500 cash prize. Both students are supervised by Associate Prof. Dr. Jane Gew Lai Ti, Prof. Raja Affendi Raja Ali and Assoc Prof Dr Jactty Chew.



*Tan Yi Huan (Phd in Biology)*







**SUNWAY UNIVERSITY**  
In Support of WWF-Malaysia

## Composting: Combat the climate crisis

Soong Wei Si

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### World Population Projection until 2100

Year	Population (billion)
2023	8.0
2020	8.5
2050	9.7
2100	11.2

Global municipal solid waste is expected to increase by **70%** to reach a total of **3.40 billion tons** or 1.42 kg/capita/day by 2050 due to the rapid growth in global population.

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### Improper Waste Management

Irregular Waste Collection and Handling

Landfilling and Open Dumping

Open Burning and Incineration

releases

- Land pollution
- Water pollution
- Air pollution

Composting

solution

**6%** Greenhouse gases: Methane, CO<sub>2</sub>

global warming

**Climate change**

- melt ice caps
- rise sea levels
- extreme weathers
- loss of habitats and biodiversity

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### What is composting?

- A **biological / natural** waste disposal method or process
- Break down** of **organic wastes** (leaves, food scraps) into simpler product, called compost
- By **bacteria, fungi**, and other **decomposing organisms** (worms, sowbugs, and nematodes)
- Compost**: Humus, stable and dark brownish organic material that used as valuable fertilizer to enrich soil and plants




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### How to make a compost?

1. Collect organic wastes:
  - Browns: dry leaves, sawdust, shredded newspaper
  - Greens: grass clippings, food waste, weeds or green trimmings
2. Prepare a compost bin.
3. Add alternating thin layers of greens and browns, ending with a layer of browns.
4. Wet the compost pile if needed and regularly monitor the moisture level.
5. Regularly aerate your pile or bin by turning with garden fork.
6. Add the completed compost (dry, brown) to your garden beds.
7. Act as fertilizer and increase crop yields/ plant growth.
8. Form food wastes or garden wastes.



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### Why composting?

**Reduces waste stream and costs for waste management**

- Lesser wastes go into the landfills.
- Global costs of waste disposal will increase to \$375 billion in 2025 and composting program can save \$100,000-\$300,000 of annual disposal costs.

**Alleviates greenhouse gases emission and mitigate climate change**

- Compostable wastes go into landfills will generate biogas with 50% methane and 50% CO<sub>2</sub> gases.

**Improves soil health and lessen erosion**

- Compost consists of primary nutrients and essential elements (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc).
- Increase soil's water retention capacity, productivity, and resiliency.
- Replace chemical or synthetic fertilizers that contain harmful chemicals.

**Meet United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):**

- SDG 6 - Ensuring clean water and sanitation
- SDG 11 - Creating sustainable cities and inclusive communities
- SDG 12 - Demonstrating sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 13 - Mitigating climate change
- SDG 15 - Protecting life on land



**Sunway House Student Residences' sports and wellness initiatives**  
**28 February 2024**



Beyond providing accommodation, Sunway House Student Residences thrives on fostering connections, nurturing talents, and supporting personal growth among the residents.





Healthy competition and teamwork were at the forefront of the Residences' sports tournaments, where residents came together to engage in friendly matches and showcase their athletic prowess. Alongside these tournaments, the wellness programme provided workshops and activities aimed at supporting residents' holistic well-being. By integrating physical activity with mental health initiatives, the Residences promoted a comprehensive approach to wellness that addressed the interconnected aspects of residents' physical, mental, and emotional health, thereby cultivating a supportive and balanced community environment.

