



**KEMENTERIAN TENAGA, SAINS, TEKNOLOGI, ALAM SEKITAR DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM**

<b>Bil</b>	<b>Berita</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Capaian Berita Penuh</b>
Tiada berita berkaitan			

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LAMPIRAN 1  
SINAR HARIAN MUKA SURAT 30  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

## 452kg sampah dikutip di Pantai Balok

KUANTAN - Sebanyak 452 kilogram (kg) sampah dikutip oleh lebih 370 sukarelawan Malaysia di Pantai Balok di sini baru-baru ini.

Yang Dipertua Majlis Perbandaran Kuantan (MPK), Datuk Hamdan Hussin berkata, sampah itu dikutip sempena program Beach Clean Up Day yang dianjurkan dengan kerjasama Bank Islam Malaysia.

Menurutnya, peserta terdiri daripada pelajar dari Future Leaders School, Kem Wawasan Negara Bukit Sagu, Kuantan; Giat-Mara, Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia dan Majlis Pengurusan Komuniti Kampung (MPKK) serta kakitangan Bank Islam dan BIMB Holdings Berhad (BHB).

"Selain bertujuan membersihkan pantai, objektif program adalah untuk memupuk sifat tanggungjawab dan melatih diri



Peserta bersama sampah yang berjaya dikumpulkan sempena program Beach Clean Up Day di Pantai Balok baru-baru ini.

peserta untuk sukakan kebersihan dan cenderung ke arah menjaga kebersihan persekitaran ialah menerusi amalan *plogging* dan bergotong-royong.

"Apabila kita turun padang dan bekerja bersama-sama dalam satu

komuniti barulah kita dapat memahami betapa pentingnya penjagaan kebersihan persekitaran, kesan buruk daripada sikap tidak peduli tentang sampah dan menghargai mereka yang menjalankan tugas kebersihan," katanya.



**LAMPIRAN 2**  
**SINAR HARIAN (NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 32**  
**TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)**

### JKM Kelantan sediakan 606 PPS hadapi banjir

**KOTA BHARU** - Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) Kelantan menyediakan sebanyak 606 pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) melibatkan sebanyak 1,066 kampung bagi menghadapi bencana banjir.

Pengarahnya, Said Sidup berkata, pihaknya turut menyediakan peruntukan sebanyak RM13,000 untuk bekalan makanan kepada mangsa banjir dalam

tempoh tiga hari dan melantik seramai 63 pembekal di jajahan yang dekat dengan pusat pemindahan termasuk di pedalaman Gua Musang bagi membolehkan bantuan segera makanan tanpa perlu menunggu wakil JKM.

"Sekiranya banjir berlarutan, kami telah berancang mengadakan pembelian darurat menerusi pembekal di pasar raya seperti Mydin, Tesco dan Giant terutama bekalan

barangan basah seperti sayur, telur dan ayam.

"Pihak kami terima peruntukan kerajaan Persekutuan dan negeri sebanyak RM1.3 juta untuk bencana banjir di Kelantan," katanya.

Menurutnya, peruntukan itu melibatkan pelbagai keperluan termasuk selimut, tuala, tika dan pek alat kebersihan yang boleh digunakan di pusat pemindahan. - *Bernama*





LAMPIRAN 3  
SINAR HARIAN (NEGERI) MUKA SURAT 34  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

# Bumbung rosak akibat ribut

**Kerajaan peruntuk  
RM50,000 baiki  
bumbung  
Pangsapuri Sri  
Rasah**

SARINAH MAT KASIM

SEREMBAN

**K**erajaan Negeri Sembilan memperuntukkan RM50,000 bagi membaiki kerosakan bumbung dan saluran air di Pangsapuri Sri Rasah di sini akibat ribut pada 7 Oktober lalu.

Exco Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan, Kerajaan Tempatan dan Kampung Baru Negeri Sembilan, Teo Kok Seong berkata, kejadian itu menyebabkan hampir separuh daripada atap bumbung di pangsapuri empat tingkat itu



Kok Seong (kiri) meninjau kerosakan di Pangsapuri Sri Rasah semalam.

rosak terutama di tingkat tiga dan empat akibat diterbangkan ribut.

Menurutnya, kerja-kerja pembaikan atap bumbung akan dilakukan dalam masa terdekat dan dijangka siap pada penghujung Disember ini.

“Masalah-masalah lain yang berbangkit seperti gangguan haiwan liar, lampu jalan dan turap jalan kita akan laksanakan secara berperingkat dan mengikut keutamaan semasa,” katanya selepas membuat tinjauan di Pangsapuri

Sri Rasah di sini semalam.

Hadir sama, Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Mambau, Yap Yew Weng dan Pengerusi Badan Pengurusan Pangsapuri Sri Rasah, M Ganesan.

Sementara itu, penghuni terjejas, M Indran, 29, berkata, bumbung rumahnya di tingkat tiga kini berkulat kerana dimasuki air yang berpunca daripada takungan air di tingkat empat.

Katanya, selepas kejadian angin ribut dan bumbung bocor, siling rumahnya kerap basah sehingga air menitik setiap hari menyebabkan keadaan mereka tiga beranak tidak selesa.

“Rumah saya sekarang selalu basah, air sering menitik dari siling menyebabkan anak saya berusia setahun tidak selesa selain ada bau hapak dari siling yang basah,” katanya.

Pangsapuri Sri Rasah mula dibina pada 1985 dan sehingga kini mempunyai lebih 150 penghuni.



LAMPIRAN 4  
 HARIAN METRO MUKA SURAT 04  
 TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)



LALUAN di Jalan Ion Delemen yang tersekat akibat tanah runtuh.

# 200 terperangkap

Tanah runtuh di Genting Highlands akibat hujan lebat

Oleh Khairul Najib  
 Asarulah Khan  
 khairul.najib@ns-tp.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur**

Kira-kira 200 kakitangan dan penghuni sebuah hotel serta sebuah pangsapuri terperangkap akibat tanah runtuh di Jalan Ion Delemen, Genting Highlands berikutan hujan lebat, semalam.

Difahamkan, runtuh tanah di lereng bukit itu dipercayai berlaku secara berperingkat-peringkat bermula jam 5 petang.

Ketua Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBP) Genting Highlands, Yusri Abdullah Sani berkata, pihaknya menerima panggilan jam 5.20 petang.

Katanya, dua jentera bersama 23 anggota termasuk bantuan dari BBP Bentong dikerah ke lokasi untuk memantau lokasi kejadian.

"Kejadian tanah runtuh itu menutupi keseluruhan laluan menuju ke hotel dan pangsapuri terbabit, namun tidak membabitkan laluan



Kejadian tanah runtuh itu menutupi keseluruhan laluan menuju ke hotel dan pangsapuri terbabit"

Yusri Abdullah Sani

utama ke pusat pelancongan Genting Highlands.

"Buat masa ini, kontraktor sedang melakukan pembersihan di laluan berkenaan," katanya ketika dihubungi, di sini.

Katanya, kejadian tanah runtuh itu juga tidak membabitkan kemalangan jiwa. Sementara itu, Ketua Polis Daerah Bentong, Superintendan Yusuf Unis ketika dihubungi mengesahkan kejadian.

"Kejadian itu tidak mengakibatkan kemalangan jiwa dan kerosakan harta benda. Pihak pengurusan hotel turut bersama membersihkan laluan berkenaan," katanya.



LUMPUR memenuhi permukaan jalan.





LAMPIRAN 5  
BERITA HARIAN (LOKAL) MUKA SURAT 10  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

## Utamakan alam sekitar berbanding FDI

**Malaysia** harus tegas untuk tidak akur kepada tuntutan Australia yang mengharapkan Kuala Lumpur dapat menarik balik syarat yang dikenakan terhadap kilang nadir bumi, Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Lynas) di Kawasan Perindustrian Gebeng, Kuantan.

Benar Lynas adalah syarikat Australia dan membuat pelaburan besar di Malaysia tetapi pada masa sama, kepentingan kita untuk menjaga alam sekitar negara juga harus mendapat keutamaan dan perkara ini tidak boleh kita bertolak ansur.

Begitu pun, dalam keadaan ekonomi global kurang memberangsangkan, ditambah pula oleh perang dagang berterusan antara dua gergasi ekonomi dunia, Malaysia sudah semestinya mengharapkan pelaburan langsung asing (FDI).

Apa pun, antara kepentingan negara perlu diberi keutamaan daripada semata-mata mahu mengejar FDI. Kita percaya, kerajaan di bawah pimpinan Pakatan Harapan tahu apa yang perlu dibuat demi kepentingan rakyat.



LAMPIRAN 6  
NEW STRAITS TIMES (HIGHER ED): MUKA SURAT 45, 46 & 47  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)





# Technically adept, intellectually capable

ROZANA SANI  
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**F**OR the nation to move forward in tandem with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) and beyond, there is a clear need for a well-trained technical workforce with skill sets that are present- and future-ready as well as future-resilient.

Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes have always been seen as the vehicle to prepare aptly-skilled human capital but somehow the general perspective is that they fall short in terms of the level of skills and knowledge needed for the industry to forge ahead.

Graduates who have qualified from TVET institutions previously do not have a clear career pathway to further their studies and secure jobs that are highly technical in nature.

To create more career pathways and opportunities for TVET students, the Education Ministry with the Malaysian Technical University Network (MTUN) comprising four universities — Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) — and the professional body for technologists and technicians, the **Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT)**, have collaborated in establishing newly developed Bachelor of Technology Degree (BTech) programmes in specific technology fields.

Some universities have introduced several of the courses last month at the beginning of the 2019/2020 academic year while other universities will make the courses available in September next year.

According to MBOT president Tan Sri Ahmad Zaiidee Laidin, BTech programmes in MTUN are articulation programmes for TVET graduates with Diploma Vokasional Malaysia (Malaysian Vocational Diploma/DVM) through Kolej Vokasional (KV); and those with Diploma Kemahiran Malaysia (Diploma in Skills Malaysia / DKM) and Diploma



**The main difference between BTech and conventional degree programmes is that the former were developed based on occupational requirement while the latter are more discipline-based.**

**PROFESSOR DATUK WIRA DR RAHA ABDUL RAHIM**  
UTeM vice-chancellor

Lanjutan Kemahiran Malaysia (Advanced Diploma Skills Malaysia / DLKM) from institutions under the Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR).

The articulation process entails matching the courses, requirements and coursework at vocational colleges with that at higher education institutions.

"KVs start enrolling students as young as 16, post PMR/PT3 examination towards Diploma Vokasional Malaysia (DVM) through Sijil Vokasional Malaysia (SVM) without SPM. That posed a problem for the graduates should they decide to pursue a Bachelor's degree and beyond at public universities. Other than that they often face difficulty in transitioning from TVET-based education to an academic-based degree programme," he explained.

The entry level requirement for BTech programmes in MTUN is not based solely on SPM qualification, Ahmad Zaiidee highlighted.

For DVM graduates, most of the candidates have taken the equivalency courses to SPM's Bahasa Melayu dan Sejarah, namely Bahasa Melayu 1104 as well as Sejarah 1251. For DKM and DLKM graduates, most of the students have taken SPM which already includes Bahasa Melayu and Sejarah.

In any case this nation-building initiative is not met, MTUN has agreed the student can enrol for the courses during their tenure years of BTech studies.

"MBOT through Technicians Act 2015 (Act 768) has established the Technology & Technical Accreditation Council (TTAC). This is a Joint Technical Committee with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) to perform accreditation on professional technology and technical programmes. The council has published a Technology & Technical Accreditation Manual 2019 (TTAC MANUAL) for a comprehensive guideline for education providers



**Associate Professor Dr Anuar Mat Safar**

(EP) to design and develop their programmes in the advanced technological fields," he said.

UniMAP Academic Management Office dean Professor Dr Anuar Mat Safar said the availability of BTech programmes for DVM and DKM qualification holders is timely.

"It is estimated there are 50,000 students graduating with DVM and DKM every year. With the availability of BTech programmes, these students can obtain Bachelor's degree-level qualifications as per required to face the challenges of IR 4.0," he said.



**Tan Sri Ahmad Zaiidee Laidin**

**DIFFERENTIATION**

The main difference between BTech and conventional degree programmes is that the former were developed based on occupational requirement while the latter are more discipline-based, UTeM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Wira Dr Raha Abdul Rahim explained.

"In conventional degree, fundamental and technological courses such as mathematics, physics etc are taught separately. In BTech programmes, the focus is for a graduate to perform a task in the work environment, hence fundamental and technological knowledge that is usually taught in different courses are embedded into a course on a particular competency set," she said.

For example, she illustrated that a BTech Welding programme comprises a course of Welding inspection that combines elements of mathematics, physics, material studies, and local laws accordingly rather than have the subjects taken in separate courses, as with conventional programmes.

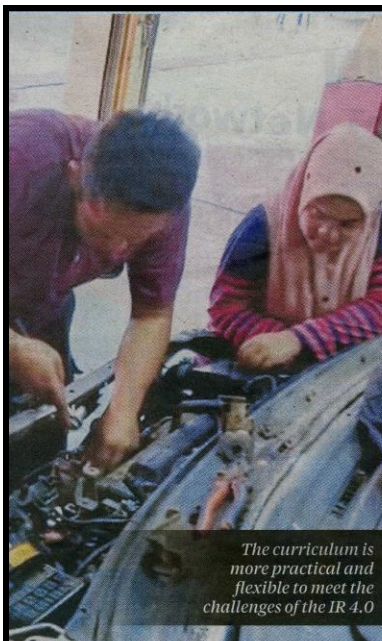
UTHM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Wahid Razzaly, meanwhile, explained that the current delivery or execution of BTech programmes uses the approach of Work Based Learning (WBL) in block released manner. This means the students undergo their studies in two phases: two and a half years at university and another year in the industry.

"The curriculum structure is towards preparing students into industry 4.0 in line with the Program Educational Objective, which is to produce technologist, technopreneur and entrepreneurship. As such, the success ratio of higher graduate



Launch of the MTUN Bachelor of Technology Programme at Universiti Malaysia Pahang in June.





The curriculum is more practical and flexible to meet the challenges of the IR 4.0

**LIST OF BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMMES AT MTUN UNIVERSITIES**

No	Name of Programmes	Session Available	
		Sept 2019	Sept 2020
1	Bachelor of Technology in Building Construction	UTHM	UTHM, UniMAP
2	Bachelor of Technology in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	UTHM	UTHM, UTeM
3	Bachelor of Technology in Food Service Technology	UTHM	UTHM
4	Bachelor of Technology in Industrial Machining	UTeM	UTHM, UTeM, UniMAP, UMP
5	Bachelor of Technology in Welding	UTHM, UTeM	UTHM, UTeM, UniMAP, UMP
6	Bachelor of Technology in Automotive	UMP	UTHM, UTeM, UniMAP, UMP
7	Bachelor of Technology in Electrical System Maintenance	UTHM, UniMAP	UTHM, UTeM, UniMAP, UMP
8	Bachelor of Technology in Industrial Electronic Automation	UTHM, UniMAP	UTHM, UTeM, UniMAP, UMP
9	Bachelor of Technology in Oil and Gas Facility	UMP	UMP
10	Bachelor of Technology in Occupational Safety and Health	UTHM	UTHM

Source: UTeM

INFOGRAPHIC NST

employability is ensured as the students will have a structured WBL courses in the industry itself within a year before they graduate," he said.

He said another delivery approach via apprenticeship is still in the development progress. The idea is to have workers upgrade their qualifications by studying two days in university and working three days.

**COLLABORATION**

UMP Center for Academic Innovation & Competitiveness (CAIC) director Associate Professor Dr Mohd Ruslim Mohamed, who is a director of the MBOT Technology and Technical Accreditation Secretariat, observed that MoE and the Ministry of Human Resources have been working closely to ensure the programmes are running accordingly.

"So far, the government has distributed some budget for reskilling and upskilling of existing lecturers, mentoring training for industry workers, and the implementation of a newly developed concept of teaching factory — University Reevaluation Teaching Factory (URTF). Here, students are involved in industrial production line, thus creating valuable experiential learning even before they graduate," he said.

He related that MoE has approached the Malaysian German Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MGCCI) to become a strategic partner to B.Tech's MTUN, so that the programmes can be further improved to meet the German standards.

"With MGCCI on board, all of its over 400 companies' partners would be willing to be part of the ministry's TVET empowerment agenda," he said.

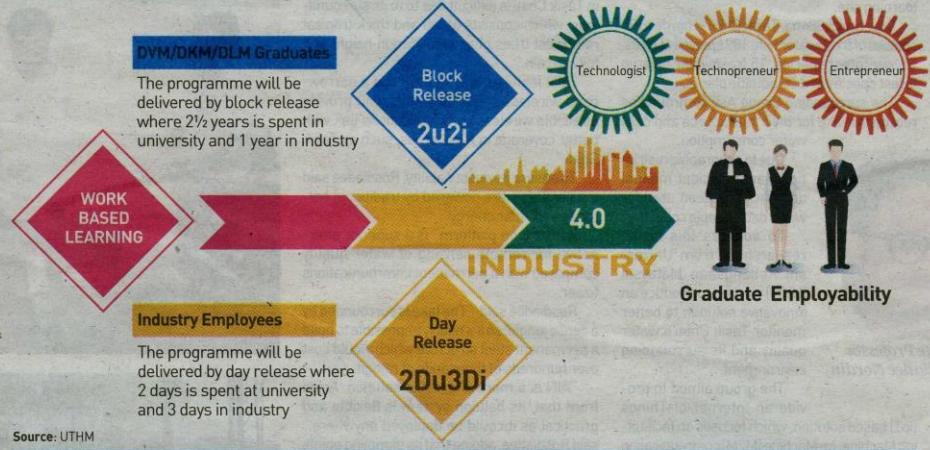
To improve the quality of teaching and learning based on IR 4.0, Anuar said UniMAP is currently applying to develop a teaching plant through the URTF effort.

"This involves practical sessions of industrial design, engineering design and 3D printing at this teaching plant," said Anuar.

UniMAP's Faculty of Engineering Technology has also applied for TVET transfer of technology (TOT) for existing lecturers to further enhance their knowledge and skills.

"The main objective of this TOT is to obtain professional certification for lecturers at the faculty. Some laboratories are also proposed to be turned into industrial laboratories, to enable professional certificates to be issued. Training to obtain a teaching professional certificate has also

**BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME DELIVERY**



Source: UTHM

INFOGRAPHIC NST

been proposed as one of the TOT TVET agendas to be implemented after this provision is approved," he said.

At UTHM, Wahid said nine memoranda of understanding and eight letters of intent with related industries have been signed.

"The University-Industry partnerships include those with Siemens, Acson, Carrier, Festo, HardRock Hotel, NIOSH, Binaan Desjaya and Proton. The approach of B.Tech programmes is to have 60 per cent work-based learning and 40 per cent theory," he said.

**EXPECTATIONS**

Director of UTeM's Academic Planning and Development Office Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Fahmi Miskon said with a B.Tech degree in hand, TVET graduates can also request for appropriate and adequate amount of salaries coherent with the skills that they own.

"It is believed that the competition for fresh graduates to get a job has gotten tougher. Hands-on skills, experience and knowledge are what employers look for today," he said.

Other than having more students involved in skilled courses, Ahmad Zaidee said it is also very important to get the students to further their studies so that they would be more intellectually improved

in many aspects.

"The graduates of these programmes are expected to be employed as soon as they graduate because the programmes are designed to fulfil the needs of the industries.

"The launch of B.Tech programmes in MTUN reflects the government's commitment in promoting and acknowledging TVET as the driving force in the country's development. The curriculum is more practical and flexible to meet the challenges of the IR 4.0," he said.

As the primary professional body for TVET, he said MBOT prepares TVET graduates as technologists and technicians that are readily accepted not just in the local but also the global industry.

"We are establishing our footing in the international arena with other countries via bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

"To date, we have been accepted as provisional signatory for Seoul Accord (multilateral co-accreditation agreement for Information & Computing Technology programmes). MBOT has also taken a proactive step in proposing to pioneer the establishment of APEC Technologists and Technicians Register (ATTR) which is anticipated to be launched next year when Malaysia hosts APEC 2020," he said.



Associate Professor Dr Mohd Ruslim Mohamed



Professor Datuk Dr Wahid Razzaly





LAMPIRAN 7  
THE SUN (ON WEDNESDAY) MUKA SURAT 06  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

## US begins Paris climate pact exit

**WASHINGTON:** The Trump administration said on Monday it filed paperwork to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, the first formal step in a one-year process to exit the global pact to fight climate change.

The move is part of a broader strategy by President Donald Trump to reduce red tape on American industry, but comes at a time scientists and many world governments urge rapid action to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

Once it exits, the United States, the top historic greenhouse gas emitter and leading oil and gas producer, will become the only country outside the accord.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed the step on Monday and pointed out that the United States had trimmed emissions here in recent years even as it had grown its energy production.

"The US is proud of our record as a world leader in reducing all emissions, fostering resilience, growing our economy, and ensuring energy for our citizens," he said.

The European Union expressed disappointment.

"The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement means that the rest of us must further increase our cooperation," Finland's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Krista Mikkonen said in a statement yesterday.

"An official from the French presidential office accompanying President Emmanuel Macron on a state visit to China, said: "We regret this and this only makes the Franco-Chinese partnership on the climate and biodiversity more necessary."

The State Department's letter to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres starts the clock on a process that will be complete one day after the 2020 US presidential election.

Until its formal exit, the United States will continue to participate in negotiations over technical aspects of the agreement, represented by career State Department officials. - Reuters

LAMPIRAN 8  
THE SUN (ON WEDNESDAY) MUKA SURAT 9  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

# Hypocrisy on climate change campaign

**G**RETA Thunberg has done something "unthinkable" yet again for someone of her age. This time she declined the prestigious 2019 Environmental Award offered to her by the Nordic Council upon nomination from Sweden and Norway. The prize is aimed at a company, organisation or person for noteworthy efforts to "integrate respect for nature and the environment into their business or work or for some other form of extraordinary initiative on behalf of nature and the environment". She reckoned that it is more important to stay focussed in getting her mission accomplished. "What we need is for our politicians and the people in power (to) start to listen to the current, best available science," she wrote.

By taking the bold decision, she has now shifted the attention back to where it should be after so many parties, especially those opposed to the issues of climate change, tried to turn her (the messenger) as their target instead. And among them were some world leaders as well as influential lobbyists who somehow felt intimidated by the raw power emanating from determined young people.

The other remarkable thing she did was to articulate what the fight against climate change is all about, simply by highlighting a stark hypocrisy that has escaped many. "In Sweden we live as if

we had about four planets according to WWF and Global Footprint Network. And roughly the same goes for the entire Nordic region" (and Europe too!), according to her post on the social media on the same day. In short, it boils down essentially to the case of inequitable and unfair distribution of resources worldwide. Some are so blatant that it needs to be rectified in the name of ensuring justice and a just and sustainable future.

I have heard something similar before directly from a Swedish minister during a high level Unesco meeting in Paris some 10 years ago. Only that she said three instead of four planets. Is it possible that between the two periods, consumption has increased by one planet. If so, it is indeed shocking, more so if that applies to the entire region which is generally noted for its prudent and social consciousness in matters of lifestyles and wellbeing. This could be gleaned from the various indigenous concepts like "lagom" and "hygge" that convey a rich meaning resembling that of sustainability. "Lagom" essentially is Swedish to mean: "just the right amount". No more, no less that some define it as "enough, sufficient, adequate", while others widely translate it as "in moderation" and "in balance".

Likewise, "hygge" is a Danish and Norwegian word reportedly describing "a mood of cosiness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment". Otherwise, it is "an art of



BYDZULKIFLI ABDUL RAZAK

**MY VIEW**

*"One is anxious to understand how some (richer) countries are allowed to exceed the quota of resources many times over at the expense of 'poorer' countries."*

creating intimacy"; with some form of "feeling" - relating to happiness, comfort, and simplicity.

In other cultures, similar words such as "ikigai" in Japanese, "ubuntu" in Nguni Bantu, "nunchi" Korean, and "sejahtera" for Malaysia and the larger Nusantara exist - seeming to indicate that every culture has long had its version of shared and balanced way of life that closely resembles the notion of "sustainability".

Following this to its logical conclusion, one is anxious to understand how some (richer) countries are allowed to exceed the quota of resources many times over at the expense of "poorer" countries. The case in point: how do the Nordic countries justify their "use" of resources in excess of the only planet that all humanity is dependent on. What happened to "lagom" or "hygge" - what else within the notion of "sustainability"?

It is here that Thunberg showed courage and maturity to call a spade a spade by declining the award. Accepting it would weaken her moral authority to fight the big and powerful lobby that is determined to resort to bullying tactics.

Instead, she has now turned the tables on them, including her country and the region that saw it fit to nominate her for the 2019 prize. She must walk the talk by demonstrating that she is keen to start with her country and region before

insisting the same on the rest of the world. As they say: Charity starts at home. So too in resolving the issues of climate change.

For those countries that have been deprived of their rightful share of resources of less than one planet (think exploitation, decolonisation, etc), they must be doubly sure when engaging so-called "experts" - local or foreign - with clear record of being effective and impactful in their home countries.

Otherwise, their claims to offer "solutions" to other countries or regions are questionable, especially on issues of cultural competency that can be highly sensitive. As is often the case, only by "consulting" the local population and tapping its indigenous wisdom that the "expert" advice emerged usually by regurgitating what they have just learned (and compensated handsomely) for the sleight of hand.

This is essentially what Thunberg has laid bare for us to ponder and act upon if the "real" solution to disparities among humanity is to be seriously considered. Namely, the double speak and hypocrisy must stop immediately stop.

For this we have Greta Thunberg to thank for.

**With some four decades of experience in education, the writer believes that "another world is possible". Comments: letters@thesundaily.com**



LAMPIRAN 9  
NEW STRAITS TIMES (OPINION) MUKA SURAT 52  
TARIKH: 06 NOVEMBER 2019 (RABU)

ASIA'S PLASTIC CRISIS



RICHARD FINE

# ADOPTING PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

Solving plastic pollution is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today



Globally, 360 million tonnes of new plastic are produced every year and more than 14 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into the oceans.

**E**NVIRONMENTAL sustainability has been at the top of the mind in recent months, particularly as the United Nations Climate Change Summit held earlier in September sparked another round of debates among global leaders and advocates on the action — or lack thereof — that has been taken thus far.

The same is observed in Asia, where a growing number of young activists are beginning to take a stand in light of climate change.

Strikingly, plastics are never left out of discussions concerning the environment and, to some extent, solving the problems associated with plastic pollution is deemed as one of the greatest challenges facing the world today.

Globally, 360 million tonnes of new plastic are produced every year and more than 14 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into the oceans.

Less than 10 per cent of plastic is currently recycled.

Asia, a consumption powerhouse, is not immune to this problem.

In fact, Asian countries are among the world's biggest sources of ocean plastic pollution — more than half of the ocean's plastic waste originates from the region.

### DEEP-ROOTED RELATIONSHIP WITH PLASTIC

The prevalence of plastic as a cheap material in consumers' daily lives, along with a preference for convenience, means the region's plastic waste crisis is likely to worsen.

Several studies showed that consumers have become more conscious of their environmental impact and increasingly want brands to embrace sustainability.

However, the higher cost of alternative materials made from renewable resources has resulted in most businesses in the region choosing to focus on cost rather than being environmentally responsible.

This has minimised the potential environmental benefits that alternative materials can bring about and will continue to delay the transition away from the current unsustainable and linear economic model towards a regenerative circular economy where there is no waste, only valuable resources.

This phenomenon is pervasive in Asia, where convenience-minded consumers have become increasingly accustomed to the benefits of using cheap plastics derived from non-renewable fossil resources.

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that some governments have failed to acknowledge that the on-going and prolific use of fossil-based plastics are unsustainable, contribute to climate change and pollute the environment at every stage in their life-cycle.

The shift away from plastics has also been challenging due to a lack of understanding about sustainable alternatives along with a lack of enforced standards which has resulted in the emergence of confusing solutions that continue to rely on cheap fossil-based plastic.

Brand owners "greenwash" with terminology such as "biodegradable", "oxo degradable" and "landfill degradable".

These products are touted as a solution to plastic pollution yet there is no independently reviewed scientific evidence that proves their claims.

### SOLUTIONS REQUIRE LEGISLATION AND EDUCATION

Nonetheless, it is without question that Asia is picking up pace to tackle the plastic crisis.

India and Japan are planning to implement initiatives to curb the amount of single-use disposable plastics.

However, efforts have largely been focused on businesses, such as implementing regulations requiring them to take part in the recycling of plastics or a ban on single-use items.

Another method commonly adopted by governments has been the implementation of plastic bag charges.

In countries where this has been implemented, it has shown to significantly reduce the amount of plastic bags.

### BOTTOM-UP VS TOP-DOWN APPROACH

More often than not, the effectiveness of a bottom-up approach is overlooked as the role of consumers is undermined.

Consumers are crucial in turning the situation around as they possess the power demand to more sustainable alternatives to fossil-based plastics.

By supporting brands that proactively introduce sustainable solutions, this will place greater pressure on other businesses to adopt such alternatives in their day-to-day operations if they want to remain relevant in a competitive market place.

An example can be seen by

BioPak's partnership with Deliveroo to replace single-use plastic packaging with compostable alternatives for their operations in Singapore as more consumers opt for food delivery services — which traditionally relies on huge quantities of single-use disposable plastic packs and utensils.

This initiative has shown that it is possible to be both sustainable and profitable and positions the brands as industry leaders.

### EDUCATION IS KEY

Asia, compared with other parts of the world like Australia, is still a long way from tackling its plastic crisis but there is still hope and the first step in the transition towards a more sustainable society is to raise awareness on the environmental impact of fossil-based plastics and the benefits of choosing products and packaging made from bioplastics derived from renewable resources.

This is particularly pertinent today as more companies jump on the highly lucrative sustainability bandwagon by making deceptive claims which leads to more confusion and delays the transition towards a truly circular economy. A future without "greenwashing" is only possible with informed brand owners and educated consumers.

The writer is director of a leading supplier of sustainable disposable packaging for the food service industry in Australia and New Zealand

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