SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS PROGRAMME (PPST) 2021

FREE ONLINE PROGRAM

EMPOWERING STUDENTS’ LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) VIA INTERGENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

**RCE Sejahtera Youth** turning sustainable development into reality for a masterful balance of meeting our world’s people needs to live harmoniously in nature. Come listen to our RSY youth squad on their opinions & ideas on how to practice SDG 1, 12 & 14.

JOYCE JEYA BHARATHY
SDG 1: NO POVERTY

ZHARIF ASYRANI
SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

AMIRUL SYAFFFIQ
SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

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A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR HUMBLE ORGANIZATION

RCE Penang is a United Nations recognised Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) that works in partnership with key stakeholders to bring about change for sustainability at the community level. The purpose of partnership is to empower sustainability at the community level. Our network includes partners from the voluntary, public, education and business sectors, who work together to develop and implement innovative ESD projects and programs in Penang. Hosted by the University Sains Malaysia, RCE Penang is part of a growing global network of over a hundred RCE's.
Student leadership in sustainability cannot be achieved if depended on a single stakeholder. One of the proven strategies in developing students’ leadership is via collaboration. In line with 21st century learning competencies, it is essential to empower students in creating transferring knowledge related to sustainability to the younger generation. Thus, it is necessary for youth play a leading role in SDG and share with other youth and younger generations around the globe through RCE Centers.

The project involved intergenerational knowledge transfer between SDGs content expert, RCE Youth and school students via Free Online Program on Empowering Students’ Leadership in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer focusing on Sustainable Development Goals with three themes that are No Poverty (SDG 1), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14). This project provides a collaboration opportunity for youth and students to share and exchange ideas on sustainability related to the specific themes.

**OUR OBJECTIVES**

- To develop student leadership for building a sustainable society through education focus on the following themes which are No Poverty (SDG 1), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14).
- To strengthen the collaboration between RCE Penang and school in cultivating an innovation ecosystem for the creation of knowledge, talent development and product excellence.
- To create leaders who are able to transform their knowledge for a sustainable society
- To empower students to be the leaders in promoting SDGs
This project focuses on three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) themes, No poverty (SDG 1), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14). The SDG 1, No poverty, the target is to fight against the poverty. More than 700 million people, or 10 per cent of the world population, still live-in extreme poverty today, struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation, etc. This situation is getting worse when the world was hit by covid-19 pandemic and Malaysia is no exemption since the global economy fallout.

For SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production is very important since world consumption and production is a driving force of the global economy especially on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. Thus, with SDG 12, students will be more aware on their consumption and production patterns towards a more sustainable future. Whereas, in SDG 14, life below water, the focus is on the ocean especially on the ocean health since the ocean drives global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind.
This project focuses on the Hands theme of taking actions on ESD while cultivating the priority action area 4: Empowering and mobilizing youth in the ESD 2030 Roadmap. At the early stage of this project, RCE Penang identified the SDG Experts and three volunteers from our RCE Sejahtera Youth to educate youth and school children on SDG 1, SDG 12, and SDG 14. Then, we conducted an online meeting to introduce the SDG content experts to the RCE Sejahtera Youth selected members. The youths had several meetings with the content experts to learn and empower their knowledge on the SDG. Finally, we organized an online program to youth and school students to educate and raise awareness focuses on SDG 1, SDG 12, and SDG 14 as well as SDG 2030 as a whole. The recording of the program was also available on Facebook RCE Penang at USM, to continuously promoting and educating public on SDGs.
The project was successfully implemented on Saturday, 11 September 2021. The online programme started at 10.00 am, with the welcoming remarks delivered by Dr Asyirah Abdul Rahim, the RCE Penang Coordinator. Dr Asyirah gave a brief description on the introduction of the project. The project was funded by grants from the Penang Education Council which aims to promote ESD at the national and international levels. The online programme was a pre-requisite for the video-making competition, which is open to Penang school students.

Next, the ceremony continued with remarks from Professor Dr. Md Roslan Hashim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sustainability & Institutional Development, Universiti Sains Malaysia. In his speech, he raised concerns regarding sustainability issues, which are evident nowadays. Most of the sustainability and environmental issues happened due to mankind’s actions. He hoped that this online program could increase the awareness among youth and school students and to instill a sense of responsibility on everyone’s role in making sure that there will be a more sustainable future for the younger generations.

The session then continued with our first presenter, Miss Joyce Jeya Bharathy from RCE Sejahtera Youth. Miss Joyce has learnt about SDG 1: ? from the content expert, Dr Normaliza Abdul Manaf. The second presenter was Mr Mohammed Zharif Asyriani Mohammed Alias from RCE Sejahtera Youth. He talked about SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Mr Mohammad Zharif was coached by two content experts, Dr Asyirah Abdul Rahim and Dr Hajjah Fazliza Che Amat. Next, the final presenter was Mr Muhammad Amirul Syaffiq Izam from RCE Sejahtera Youth. The final topic presented was on SDG 14: Life Below Water. Dr Japareng Lalung was the content expert for the topic. Finally, after the Q&A session, the program ended on a successful note at 12.00 p.m.
Based on the chart above, 67% of the participants were female and 33% were male. The total of returned survey that we received is 81 respondents out of 99 participants during the implementation of the online program.

There were five age groups among the participants of the online program. The highest age group was 9-18 years old with 45.7% from female and 24.7% from male. The lowest age group was 49-58 years old with 3.7% female and 2.5% male. From this results, it can be concluded that our program has meet the objective to empower youth and students on SDGs.
Based on the pie chart above, 90% of the participants were from Penang and 70% from Kedah. We also had participants from Vietnam with 3%. We collaborated with Penang State Education Department to promote and disseminate our program to all schools in Penang. Therefore, the number of participants in Penang was the highest.
**SURVEY RESULTS**

**SDG 1 - No Poverty**

1. How big a problem is poverty in our society today?

![Pie chart showing the results of the survey question on the severity of poverty in society. The majority (73%) believe poverty is a big problem, 20% think it’s somewhat of a problem, 5% believe it’s not a problem at all, and 2% consider it a small problem.]

After the online program ended, we selected two questions from each SDG 1, SDG 12, and SDG 14 respectively. The result above for SDG 1 showed that 73% from the participants stated that the poverty is a big problem in our society today. Only 2% answered a small problem.

2. In your opinion, which is the bigger cause of poverty today?

![Bar chart showing the results of the survey question on the cause of poverty. 56.8% of participants chose 'both of the above', 18.5% chose 'circumstances beyond their control', and 24.7% chose 'people not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty'.]

Question number two of SDG 1 was about the cause of poverty today. 24.7% answered ‘that people are not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty’ and 18.5% answered ‘that circumstances beyond their control cause them to be poor’. Most of the participants answered ‘both of the above’ with 56.8%.
SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production

1. I believe that my consumption activities (i.e. purchase and use of food, clothing, housing and etc.) have an impact on the environment.

2. In general, how much do you know about the environmental impact of the products you buy/ use?

The above pie chart showed result on the knowledge of participants on the environmental impact of the products that bought or used. 58% answered ‘Know about the most significant’ and 25% chose Fully Aware of the impact. Another 17% of the participants answered ‘Know little’ about the statement above.
1. Why are the oceans essential for human survival?

The question above was on SDG 14. The correct answer for the question was ‘Because half of the world’s oxygen is formed in the sea’. 49.4% from the total participants answered correctly while 37.0% chose ‘Because undiscovered raw materials lie dormant in the seabed’ and the remaining 13.6% answered ‘Because the oceans cool the air’.

2. What is the goal of SDG 14: Life below water?

The goal of SDG 14 is ‘To protect marine and coastal system to avoid significant damage’. Most of the participants with 96.3% chose the correct answer for this question. 2.5% answered ‘To be able to live underwater by 2045’ and 1.2% answered ‘To understand about water’.
1. How satisfied were you with the program?

The overall program was Very much satisfied by 57% of participants and 39% of the participants were Satisfied on the program as a whole. 4% of the participants answered the program was ‘OK’ for them.

2. How relevant and helpful do you think it was for you to understand about the SDGs (SDG 1, SDG 12, SDG 14)?

The knowledge and awareness provided by the youth speaker helps the participants to understand more about the specific SDGs. 51% of the participants gave feedback that it was Very much relevant and helpful and 39% answered relevant and helpful. The remaining 10% of participants gave a neutral answer or average.
Partnerships & Collaborations

We have partnered with RCE Global and local stakeholders such as Penang State Education Department, Penang Education Council and schools.
CONCLUSION

We believed that this project has helped youth students in 21st century, to empower their leadership through networking especially on Education for Sustainable Development.