

The Future belongs to the Tropics.



12 & 13 AUGUST 2020
Celebrating International Youth Day



In conjunction with

TropSc™ 2021

A joint initiative of



YOUTH FOR THE TROPICS

by Youth, with Youth, for Youth

International Youth Day recognises the role of youth in invoking change and the challenges that they face globally. 2020 will focus on “Youth Engagement for Global Action”. Children under fifteen in the Tropics are set to make up more than 67% of the world population by 2050. There are matters that have particularly pervasive effects on this youth population: depletion of natural resources, climate change and emerging diseases. Youth of today must rise to tackle the challenges that are facing the world today and in the future.

The Youth for the Tropics Webinar aims to create awareness among youth in the Tropics of the issues vital to them and to celebrate youths who have made valuable contributions through social entrepreneurship in solving problems of the Tropics. It should serve as an inspiration as well as a rallying call to encourage youth participation in international discourse. The Webinar further aims to materialize ideas on the role of youth to lead and collaborate for a secure future of the Tropics.

Regional Workshop: Youth Social Entrepreneurship for Building Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in the Tropics

Populations affected by disasters experience loss of lives, economic loss and other long-term effects. Such effects have wide-ranging consequences on the ability of affected communities to recover from the impact of disasters and undermine their capacity to cope with future events. This situation is expected to worsen as disasters due to extreme weather become more common as a result of climate change.

There is growing evidence of the importance of the role of social entrepreneurship (SE) for long-term community resilience through reduction of poverty, vulnerability and disaster risk in the communities that are moving toward recovery and reconstruction. The participation of youths and young professionals in SE will spur actions which are critical in building community resilience.

This Regional Workshop will serve as a platform for young social entrepreneurs to (1) understand funders requirements, (2) share experience and knowledge in building community resilience to disasters and climate change and (3) be spotlighted in the Register of Disaster Risk Reduction Social Entrepreneurs.

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MALAYSIAN SCENE

9.30 - 9.35 Introduction by **Ms Aliya Ahmad Nabil**, MSAF

9.35 - 9.40 Welcome Remarks
Academician Dr Mazlan Othman FASc, Chair, TropSc 2021 Steering Committee

9.40 - 9.50 Opening Remarks by Moderator
Dr Nurfashareena Muhamad, SEADPRI-UKM



9.50 - 10.25 **SESSION 1: SPEAKING OUT FOR YOUTH IN THE TROPICS**
Ms Qyira Yusri, Undi18



Qyira Yusri is the co-founder and education director of #Undi18, and also a member of the National Youth Consultative Council. With #Undi18, she leads the voter education initiatives by creating workshop modules and creative content to ensure that by GE15, Malaysian youths are prepared to vote. #Undi18 is a Malaysian grassroots movement, spearheaded by a group of young people that successfully lobbied the Government and Parliament of Malaysia to take steps towards amending Article 119(1) of the Federal Constitution to reduce the minimum voting age in Malaysia from 21 to 18 years old.

Q&A

10.25 - 11.00 **SESSION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE IN MALAYSIA**
Mr Syaql Suhaimi, Malaysian Youth Delegation



Syaql Suhaimi is one of two Focal Points heading MYD this year, where he acts as the main liaison between the organisation and its stakeholders. Having attended COP23, COP24 as well as the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019, he aims to ensure that more Malaysian youth get the opportunity to become involved in climate policy. The Malaysian Youth Delegation (MYD) is a youth climate NGO that amplifies the voice of Malaysian youth with regards to the climate crisis, locally as well as internationally. MYD has had the privilege of sending youth delegations to the annual UN Climate Change conferences, more popularly known as COPs, ever since 2015.

Dr Sharina Abdul Halim, LESTARI, UKM



Dr Sharina Abdul Halim, an environmental sociologist, is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI, UKM). Her research interests include islands and indigenous community, sustainable livelihoods, tourism development, and heritage conservation. She has been actively involved as part of the Scientific and Technical Team for Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark since 2007. She was also assigned as one of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Lead Authors for Chapter 5 on the Special 1.5 degrees Report (2017-2018) and Chapter 10: Asia for the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6-WG2) (2019-2021).

Q&A

11.00 - 11.50 **SESSION 3: HARNESSING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES IN MALAYSIA**
Ms Chia Wen Shin, Green Yards



Chia Wen Shin is the founder of Green Yards, an eco-products company that makes soaps and candles from recycled cooking oil. The company, which sources the oil from Malaysia's restaurants and households, sells the products online and in gift shops in the country. Wen Shin initially started Green Yards as a university project; she received the Queen's Young Leaders award in 2018 for her efforts to protect the environment. She was also listed on 2019's list of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia Social Entrepreneurs.



Mr Emirul Redzuan, EcoKnights

Emirul Ridzuan is the Rehabilitation, Restoration and Conservation Officer at EcoKnights and has been coordinating the River of Life Public Outreach Programme. EcoKnights is a not-for-profit environmental organization established in 2005. Its core focus areas are in capacity building in areas of community engagement and environmental education, smart partnerships with corporate and government agencies in developing effective sustainable engagement programmes, providing platforms where activities on sustainability can be shared with the masses, and youth development programs. EcoKnights also works closely with government agencies and corporates in areas related to advocacy and social responsibility.



Ms Noridah Samad, Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah

Noridah Samad is from Kampung Datong, Pitas in Sabah. She is from the Tambanuo indigenous ethnic group and is the co-president for MBOA (Majlis Belia Orang Asal/Youth Council of Indigenous Peoples) in Kudat. Noridah is also a project coordinator for the Indigenous Community Conservation Area involving six villages in her area. The project is supported by Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS). PACOS Trust is a community-based organization dedicated to supporting indigenous communities in Sabah. The organization strives to empower indigenous communities through systematic building and strengthening of community organizations, which can act collectively on its own.

Q&A

11.50 - 12.45

SESSION 4: YOUTH TOWARDS 2050

Ms Nelleita Omar

Progressive Malaysia 2050 for Youth

Nelleita Omar was previously a special advisor at the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sport in 2018, working on a project looking at youth aspirations for future nation planning. Currently, she is the Research Director of the Centre. The Centre is a research organization/ think tank dedicated to centrist views in the Malaysian context. The core team members come from diverse backgrounds, but all share a commitment to the values of non-partisanship, compassion and pragmatism.



Ms Aimi Suraya Abdul Kahar

ASEAN Foresight for Youth

Aimi Suraya is an analyst at the Academy of Sciences, Malaysia (ASM). She is currently working on the ASEAN Foresight Alliance. ASM through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) initiated the ASEAN Foresight Alliance (AFA) in 2018. Foresight studies anticipate and identify opportunities and threats which may arise in mid to long term versions of the future. Where traditional planning has sought to prevent failure, foresight prioritizes resilience, namely early detection and fast recovery. The establishment of AFA will facilitate the achievement of the ASEAN shared vision of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" by making ASEAN become more agile in facing future challenges.

Q&A

12.45 - 14.00

LUNCH BREAK



INTERNATIONAL SCENE

14.00 - 14.05 Introduction by **Mr Sufyan Aslam**, ISC ROAP

14.05 - 14.10 Welcome Remarks
Academician Dr Mazlan Othman FASc

9.40 - 9.50 Opening Remarks by Moderator
Dr Chai Lay Ching, YSN-ASM



14.20 - 14.55

SESSION 5: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE TROPICS

Mr Stephen Simon, University of South Pacific

Mr Stephen Simon is a postgraduate student in Climate Change at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in the Solomon Islands. Stephen was part of the Solomon Islands delegation to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP25. The Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) was established as part of the University of the South Pacific in response to the region's need for further research of the environment. The goal is to empower the people of the Pacific with the knowledge to adapt to the impacts of climate change and pursue sustainable development.



Ms Heeta Lakhani, UNMGCY/UNFCCC YOUNGO

Heeta Lakhani is a climate educator from Mumbai, India and has a Masters degree in Environmental Studies & Resource Management. Heeta is active at the local as well as international level since COP21 in 2015. As the current Focal Point for YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, she is a firm believer in the power of the youth in grassroots as well as international processes and policies. She also educates school students on climate change to bridge the knowledge gap on climate science as well as international processes among the children in India.



Q&A

14.55 - 15.45

SESSION 6: HARNESSING AND PROTECTING TROPICAL RESOURCES

Ms Christine Magaju, World Agroforestry Centre, Kenya

Christine Magaju is a research associate with World Agroforestry-ICRAF. Her research focuses on restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes. She works with farmers and other stakeholders to ensure implementation of context-specific restoration options. World Agroforestry (ICRAF) is a centre of science and development excellence that harnesses the benefits of trees for people and the environment. Leveraging the world's largest repository of agroforestry science and information, ICRAF develops practices, from farmers' fields to the global sphere to ensure food security and environmental sustainability.



Mr Htet Lin Naing, Mangrove Ranger

Htet Lin Naing is a project leader at the Mangrove Ranger Program, leading in major components such as communication with partner institutions, developing project proposal, recruitment, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, and report writing. Mangrove Ranger is an exciting program funded by the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Center from the University of Montana, in partnership with American Center-Yangon, WIF-Myanmar (Worldview International Foundation) and YSEALI (Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative). Its goal is to raise awareness, among the young and promising leaders in Myanmar, on the coastal concern of climate change infusing with the idea of formulating mangrove restoration on degraded land.





Mr Lincoln Lee, Rice Inc

Lincoln Lee is the Malaysian co-founder of Rice Inc - a social enterprise startup fighting food insecurity in the rice industry. Rice Inc sources quality rice from Southeast Asia and reinvests its profits to provide smallholder rice farmers the sustainable agritech they desperately need. This helps them reduce post-harvest losses and increase income. Their work has allowed the co-founders of Rice Inc to be listed on 2020's list of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia Social Entrepreneurs and their team was also the first Southeast Asian team to be awarded the Hult Prize winning recognition from President Clinton, the United Nations and the International Rice Research Institute.

Q&A

15.45 - 16.55

SESSION 7: PANEL DISCUSSION - INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF YOUTH IN THE TROPICS

16.55 - 17.00

Closing Remarks

Academician Dr Mazlan Othman FASc

9.00 - 9.05

Introduction by **Ms Nurul Syazwani Yahaya**, SEADPRI-UKM

9.05 - 9.10

Welcome Remarks

Academician Dr Mazlan Othman FASc, Chair, TropSc 2021 Steering Committee

9.10 - 9.20

Opening Remarks by Moderators

Mohd Khairul Zain Ismail, SEADPRI-UKM/U-INSPIRE Malaysia**Ms Jasreena Kaur**, Malaysian Youth Delegation

9.20 - 10.50

SESSION 8: ENABLING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**Mr Redza Shahid Ridzuan**, Malaysia Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC). Malaysia

In his current role in MaGIC, Redza Shahid develops programmes and initiatives for social enterprises to scale their business by connecting and leveraging on the innovation ecosystem. He believes in building a sustainable social enterprise ecosystem supported by an active community. The Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC), discovers and empowers technology startups and social innovators through creativity, innovation and technology adoption, and develops a vibrant and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem in Malaysia. As a government agency, MaGIC facilitates, navigates and enables the ecosystem with the mission of strengthening Malaysia's position as an emerging innovation nation.

**Ms Ivy Wong Abdullah**, Yayasan Hasanah, Malaysia

Ivy Wong Abdullah is a Senior Vice President & Head of Environment at Yayasan Hasanah. Yayasan Hasanah was born as an independent grant-making foundation in 2015, with the aim of creating greater impact that complements Khazanah Nasional's (Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund) efforts of developing Malaysia into a globally competitive nation. As a convenor, collaborator, and catalyst of change, Yayasan Hasanah focuses on the country's pressing community and social issues, bringing together policymakers, civil society organisations, corporations, and local communities to enable collective impact for the people and environment.

**Mr Nao Vannet**, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Nao Vannet is a research assistant at RUPP working with Dr. Chhinh Nyda on a project that focuses on the development of social entrepreneurship in risk reduction to build community resilience. The primary goal of the project is to create a condition that empowers female social entrepreneurs to develop disaster resilience. The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) is Cambodia's oldest and one of the largest public universities. It is unique in Cambodia for offering specialist degrees in fields including the sciences, development study, humanities and social sciences, information technology, electronics, psychology, social work, and tourism.

**Mr Ahmad Fairuz Mohd Yusof**, Selangor Disaster Management Unit

Ahmad Fairuz is the Chief Assistant Secretary of the Selangor Disaster Management Unit, and also the Chair of the IDRC Project Steering Committee to ensure efficient and proper implementation of the pilots in Selangor. The Disaster Management Unit is an operational division under the Selangor State Secretary Office. The Unit is responsible to coordinate timeline reports with the information departments or agencies on potential risks of hazards, and also to reduce the impact of disasters, to coordinate logistics needs, as well as prepare reports and coordinate programs and welfare for disaster victims.



Q&A

SESSION 9: REAL WORLD CASE STUDIES**Mr Septian Firmansyah**, Sky Volunteer, Indonesia

Septian Firmansyah graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 2009. From 2009 to 2016, he has had to separate his two passions of flying and humanitarian work. However in 2016, during the rise of drone or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology, he and similarly passionate volunteers founded Sky Volunteer; a social enterprise that focuses on providing aerial data for humanitarian works. Through Sky Volunteer, he started building networks with UAV companies, researchers, communities, and government. In 2018 he and his team at Sky Volunteer made their first flight which performed damage aerial assessment during the Lombok Emergency Response.

Dr Ranit Chatterjee, RIKA, India

Dr Ranit Chatterjee has a PhD in Environmental Management from Kyoto University, Japan and is the co-founder of Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy, India (RIKA). RIKA is a research-based social entrepreneurial start-up. We create cost-effective community-oriented solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Environment Management and Sustainable Development. We at RIKA, focus on evidence-based research and citizen science to provide innovation and customized knowledge products. We are a young group of interdisciplinary professionals with an academic background in disaster management coming from varied areas of expertise with a common passion for making this world a safer place to live.

Mr Pradip Khatiwada, Youth Innovation Lab, Nepal

Pradip Khatiwada is the founder and Executive Director at Youth Innovation Lab (YI-Lab)—a not-for-profit civic tech social enterprise. He is recognized for his leadership on the anti-plastic bag movement and getting legislation on plastic bags ban. He headed Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission and Himalayan Climate Initiatives' jointly led initiative National Volunteering Program as the National Coordinator. At YI-Lab, Pradip heads a group of young people with the mission of bridging science to people and policy through innovation. YI-Lab is well recognized for development cutting edge technical tools (Inc. an Integrated Disaster Information Management System and recently COVID19 platform) for the Government of Nepal. He is the recipient of the 2017 US department of states' International Visitor Leadership Program.

Mr Khairuddin Othman, Alphat Training & Resources, Malaysia

Khairuddin Othman (Dino) is the Co-founder and Managing Director of Alphat Training and Resources. Alphat Training and Resources ("Alphat") is a social enterprise focusing on delivering Emergency, Health and Safety services at two tiers, community ambulance services and community-based training and development. The ambulance services (named "TH Ambulance") provide a vital connection between health care and emergency management system, while the community-based Emergency, Health and Safety training aims to increase citizen's awareness of the importance of community emergency preparedness. Our social approach is to ensure social inclusion while promoting community involvement and participation in low-cost and localized emergency preparedness strategy.

Q&A

10.50 – 12.05

SESSION 10: **PANEL SESSION-BUILDING A ROADMAP FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES TO SUCCEED**

Moderated by **Profesor Joy Jacqueline Pereira FASc**, SEADPRI-UKM

Ms Shazlinda Md. Yusof, IDRC Project, UKM

Ms Shazlinda Md. Yusof is a project member who works closely with Dr. Madeline Berma to conduct social entrepreneurship trainings under an IDRC-funded project. The project on the “Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in Disaster Risk Reduction to Build Community Resilience” is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and implemented by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia’s Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI-UKM) and other partners. The project conducts action-oriented research and capacity building activities to foster long-term community resilience to climate change in Malaysia and Cambodia by empowering youth social entrepreneurs to develop disaster resilience plans.

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Dr Repaul Kanji, U-INSPIRE Alliance WGII on Social Entrepreneurship

Dr Repaul Kanji is the co-founder of CRRP (Confederation of Risk Reduction professionals) which is also the U-INSPIRE chapter in India. He is also the leader of the U-INSPIRE Alliance WGII on Social Entrepreneurship. U-INSPIRE India was formed to create a platform for the youth and young professionals to promote practical application of science, engineering, technology and innovation for disaster risk reduction to make India disaster resilient. India being a multi-hazard-prone country, the role of youth and young professionals needs to be highlighted to further science and technology integration into risk reduction and climate change initiatives leading to local solutions.



Q&A

12:55 - 13:00

Closing Remarks

Academician Dr Mazlan Othman FASc

Chair, TropSc 2021 Steering Committee



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL SCIENCES: **CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABILITY**

TropSc™ 2021

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