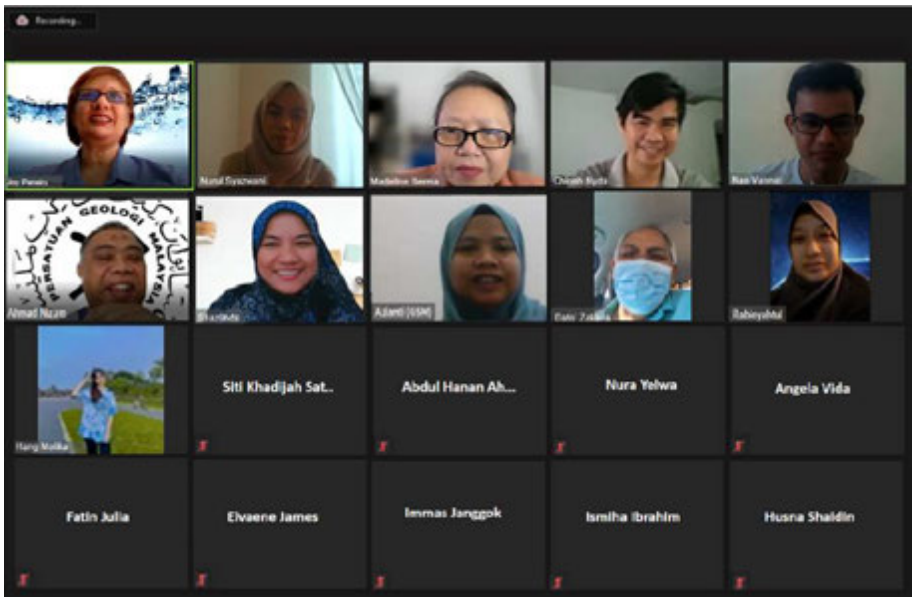
Training Of Trainers - Social Entrepreneurship for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Date: 26 June 2021
Time: 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Aim: To empower young geoscientists to become social entrepreneurs by developing disaster resilience plans with support from a geographical information system and crowd-sourcing technology for long-term community resilience to climate disasters

The training of trainers was part of the key activities under the International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada-funded project on "Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in Disaster Risk Reduction to Build Community Resilience" led by SEADPRI-UKM. The event began with an opening remarks by the Project Leader, Prof. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, to brief on the background of the project and contextualize it with the event. The training session was delivered by Dato Dr. Madeline Berma from the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) and Puan Shazlinda Md Yusof from the School of Management, University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to members of the Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM) who are interested in venturing into social entrepreneurship for DRR. The training was attended by over 20 participants from various geosciences backgrounds; they had the opportunity to learn the background and different models of social entrepreneurship including some examples of the practices in Malaysia. The participants found the training to be very beneficial in providing information about social entrepreneurship and had catalyzed the discussion on how geoscientists would, in moving forward, build their own social enterprises to contribute to disaster risk reduction.

It was a pleasure working with both of the trainers.

Prepared by:
Norazianti binti Asmari
Representative
GSM-IGM Flagship in DRR



A screen capture of the training on Zoom led by Dato Dr. Madeline Berma (first row, middle) and Ms. Shazlinda Md Yusof (second row, second left). The training was also attended by Mr. Mohd Nizam Hasan, President of GSM (second row, first left) who delivered the closing remarks.

Participants

1 Abd Hanan B Ahmad Nadzeri
2 Abdulmumini Nura Yelwa
3 Angela Vidda Chuwat
4 Dato' Zakaria
5 Dr. Chinnh Nyda
6 Dr. Nao Vannet
7 Dr. Nurfashareena Muhamad
8 Dr. Rabieahtul Binti Abu Bakar
9 Elvaene James
10 Hang Molika
11 Husna Shaidin
12 Immas Janggok
13 Intan Irwani Mohamad Zin
14 Karthigeyan AL. Ramanathan
15 Mohammad Muqtada Ali Khan
16 Navakanesh M. Batmanathan
17 Norazianti Asmari
18 Nur Fatin Julia Maznan
19 Nur Ismiha Binti Ibrahim
20 Nurul Syazwani Yahaya
21 Siti Hasniza Muh Arshad
22 Siti Khadijah Satari
23 Zaitul Zahira Ghazali

WEBINAR

WOMEN IN GEOSCIENCE

Date: 19 June 2021
Time: 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Aim: To share with undergraduates and fresh graduates the opportunities and challenges faced by women in their geoscience career in Malaysia

The `Women in Geoscience' webinar was organized by Academy GEX with support from partners including Geoxpert Sdn Bhd (GEX), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, IDRC, SEADPRI-UKM and Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM). The webinar was attended by over 100 participants, mostly comprising female geoscience undergraduates and fresh graduates. There were six invited speakers from various geoscience career paths. Topics covered by the speakers include 'Challenges for Women as a Geophysicist" by Ms. Zulaika Farhani, "Challenges for Women in the Mining Sector" by Ms. Nurul Naqiah Hanny, "SEADPRI-IDRC Project for Social Entrepreneurship in Disaster Risk Reduction" by Ms. Norazianti Binti Asmari, "Challenges for Women in the Oil and Gas Industry" by Ts. Hijreen Ismail, "Challenges for Women Geologists as Academicians" by Dr. Azrin Binti Azmi and "Challenges for Women in the Engineering Sector" by Ms. Hanis Ainnul Hisham.

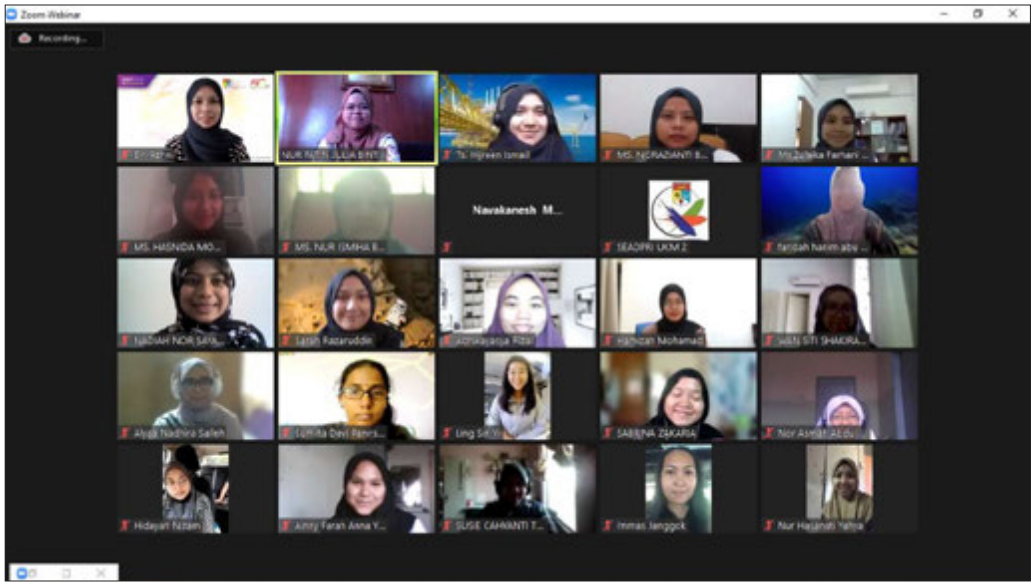
Based on the discussion, female geoscientists working in various sectors in Malaysia have been given equal opportunities and treatment as their male counterparts throughout all stages of their careers. From their experience, the speakers agreed that fresh female graduates are given equal opportunities to join the industries during job recruitment, mostly based on their academic achievements. On the other hand, fresh female graduates often have less confidence in seeking opportunities and applying for jobs with the various industries. There are much fewer female graduates applying for jobs in geoscience compared to males, even though the number of fresh female graduates far surpasses the number of fresh male graduates in the geosciences programs at universities. Upon entry into the industries, the women are also treated the same way as the men; they are expected to perform similar levels of tasks and the salary is given based on the same tenet (such as key performance index and years of experience). At the start of their careers, the women shared that they found it quite challenging to adapt socially as the workplaces are mostly dominated by men. But the awkward stage usually wears off as they get used to the environment. Some speakers also pointed out that overcoming the situation had even allowed them to grow and be more confident and

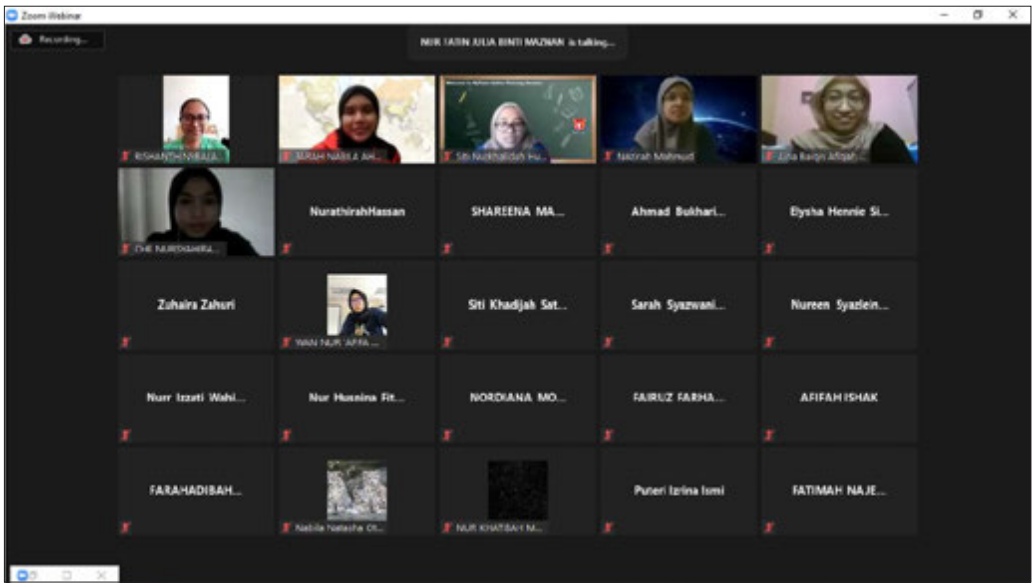
assertive; female geoscientists are a rare sight, and they do often stand out from the crowd. However, it would also be understandable if they find it a struggle to keep up at the earlier part of their careers, as they are expected to perform similarly demanding tasks as men at the workplace. This includes going to remote places for fieldwork, operating machinery, and keeping up with data analyzing tools and software, among others. Although in some workplaces, women have been given special treatment; the men would often take care of the more physically demanding tasks, and women were looked after, or not be assigned to conduct fieldwork in risky environments. Later in their careers, the usual setbacks for women to advance in their career in comparison to men commonly occur when some women choose to prioritize family life. As a result, they no longer give the same commitment to their professional life as the men in the same career path. It is also not rare for women geoscientists in Malaysia to eventually leave their careers of their own free will to focus on family life.

In essence, the discussion during the webinar revealed that in Malaysia, female geoscientists have not experienced gender-based issues at work and are given the same treatment and opportunities as male geoscientists throughout their careers. In most cases, the career success of the women mostly depends on personal choices and grit. Still, it was also noted from the discussion that the female fresh graduates in geoscience need more empowerment for them to increase their confidence and move forward in their careers.

Prepared by:
Nurul Syazwani Yahaya
Project Manager
IDRC-funded Project on Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in DRR
GSM-IGM Flagship in DRR

A poster of the event circulated via Academy GEX Facebook page and IDRC-funded project website, featuring all the invited speakers for the webinar.





Screenshots of the group at the end of the webinar attended by female undergraduates and fresh graduates in geosciences.