



One Level Higher for IDR and Dr Mazalan Kamis



Dr Mazalan shares his thoughts on Perak Amanjaya development goals and transformation agenda

24 JULY 2017
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS, TRONOH

INSTITUT Darul Ridzuan's chief executive officer Dr Mazalan Kamis, who has been appointed as Universiti Teknologi Petronas' Adjunct Lecturer for Malaysian economy course, recently delivered a lecture on Perak and its economic development under the 11th Malaysia Plan.

The course is offered to the university's undergraduates to provide them with an overview of the Malaysian economy to help them deepen their understanding of the various economic frameworks.

In his lecture, Dr Mazalan shared with the students the Institut Darul Ridzuan's role in driving Perak's strategic transformation through knowledge and idea

generation. He briefed them about Perak's economic profile and the Perak Amanjaya vision.

In elaborating the Perak Amanjaya vision, he said the transformational framework of the vision comprised four thrusts: social, economy, regional and institutions. Dr Mazalan highlighted some of the achievements and success stories since the Perak Amanjaya programme was implemented.

He then engaged with the students by answering their questions. In concluding his lecture, Dr Mazalan iterated the importance of having short- and long-term development goals to drive the socio-economic development and transformation agenda. ■



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EDITOR'S NOTE

VOLUNTEERISM – GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ONE of the most prestigious events – the Pangkor Dialogue 2017 - is just around the corner. Once again, the beautiful city of Ipoh will play host to thousands of participants, exhibitors, observers and speakers.

Indeed, Pangkor Dialogue has become a signature event for the Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) which has been organising it successfully since the event's inception in 2014.

Volunteerism in any field or with any organisation will provide volunteers with new experience. It is not far fetched to say that volunteerism helps to build individual character and personality

The continuous success of Pangkor Dialogue would not have been possible without the untiring effort of one segment of people – the event volunteers.

At every annual event, scores of volunteers were engaged to assist and support IDR in managing the various activities held during the dialogue. In this respect, we at the IDR will continue the tradition of recruiting volunteers for this year's Pangkor Dialogue.

Most of our volunteers are young and want to gain new experiences and skills. Some of them have been volunteering for the Pangkor Dialogue repeatedly with greater enthusiasm and energy.

If one were to ask what drove them to continue to serve as volunteers, the answer is a simple one: they enjoy being part of this growing event. Besides learning new skills, they also get to meet all sorts of people and make new friends.

Volunteerism in any field or with any organisation will provide volunteers with new experience. It is not far fetched to say that volunteerism helps to build individual character and personality.

The benefits are countless, indeed.

Many studies have found that as we increase our participation in volunteer work, this would make our lives happier and improve our mental health. Volunteerism also helps to develop emotional stability in the long run.

Interestingly, older people who are actively involved in volunteerism are found to look much younger and healthier.

All this shows clearly that investing our time and energy to volunteer provides us a lot of benefits. We can change our lives and other people's lives.

So, get involved in volunteer work and start making a difference!

Mohd Nadzri Kamsin
IDR News Editor

Wooing SPNB to part Pangkor Dialogue



Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) Aidilfitri Celebration



MOH NGETEH CORNER, IDR
21 JULY 2017

WITH the festive mood of Syawal still in the air, the staff of the Institut Darul Ridzuan came together to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in the spirit of joy and forgiveness.

Finely dressed in their traditional costumes - Baju Melayu for the men and Baju Kurung for the women - the staff, including trainees, added to the merriment of the get-

participate in e



Dr Mazalan, Prof Datuk Kamil, Muhammad Rani and IDR team smile for a group photo

5 JULY 2017
SPNB HEADQUARTERS, KUALA LUMPUR

INSTITUT Darul Ridzuan (IDR), which organises the annual Pangkor Dialogue event on sustainable development, recently met with representatives from Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) to discuss the prospect of the latter's involvement in Pangkor Dialogue



Muhammad Rani gave his assurance that he would discuss IDR'S invitation to the SPNB to host a forum on Affordable Housing with SPNB'S board of members

2017 which will be held this September.

The meeting between the two parties was attended by SPNB group chief marketing officer Muhamad Rani Nordin, IDR chief executive officer Dr Mazalan Kamis together with the members of the Pangkor Dialogue 2017 marketing team.

Also present at the meeting were Prof Datuk Dr Ahamad Kameel Mydin Meera from Z Consulting and senior officers of SPNB.

During the talk, Dr Mazalan briefed Muhamad Rani and his officers about the roles and responsibilities of IDR as a think-tank for the Perak state government. He shared with

them the background to the establishment of the Pangkor Dialogue and how this international-level event was becoming a global collaborative platform to achieve the goals listed in the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, Dr Mazalan shared many success stories of Pangkor Dialogue including introducing the inclusion of the Perak Festival of Ideas as one of the new elements in this year dialogue event.

He invited SPNB to join the Perak Festival of Ideas as a partner by hosting a forum on affordable housing. This invitation was received warmly by Muhamad Rani who agreed that the Perak Festival of Ideas was the right platform for SPNB to highlight housing development trends, innovations, challenges and issues.

Muhamad Rani gave his assurance that he would discuss IDR's invitation to the SPNB to host a forum on affordable housing with SPNB's board of members.

Meanwhile, Prof Dr Ahamad Kameel, who has authored several books and was a Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, said that owning a house had become a major challenge for Malaysians, adding that it was time that this issue be addressed at the Pangkor Dialogue.

He welcome the invitation extended to SPNB to host a forum and pointed out that SPNB had been chosen considering the role the organisation had played in providing affordable houses especially to Bumiputeras. ■



together by playing and singing to catchy Hari Raya tunes.

Various types of traditional dishes and drinks were served, lending more colour to the atmosphere.

IDR's chief executive officer Dr Mazalan Kamis wished his staff Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri. In his brief speech, he encouraged IDR staff and trainees to strike a balance between their personal space and work.

He said celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri in the spirit of togetherness was a precious tradition and that "we should not let our work life tax the quality of time we spend with our loved ones".

At the same time, Dr Mazalan reminded his staff that the Pangkor Dialogue 2017 was around the corner and everyone had to make themselves mentally and physically healthy and ready as they work hard for the event.

Apart from celebrating Hari Raya, the get-together also took the opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of staff born in the month of July. The party ended with a group photo session. ■



Capacity Building Dialogue for Perak Volunteer Bodies

19 JULY 2017
DEWAN BEHRANG STATION, BEHRANG

A DIALOGUE on Perak's Pelan Tindakan Strategik NGO 2016 – 2020 was jointly held by the Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) and Perak state executive councillor Datuk Samsudin Abu Hassan in conjunction with Perak Menteri Besar's Retreat Programme in the Muallim district.

In his opening remark, IDR chief executive officer Dr Mazalan Kamis stressed the importance of NGO capacity development to empower NGOs in Perak. "Perak is the only state in Malaysia that has its own strategic action plan for NGOs. The progressive leadership of the state has made it an agenda to turn and drive NGOs as the third force in social development."

He urged participants of the dialogue to encourage more members of the public to engage in volunteerism through civil society movement. Dr Mazalan then proceeded to



Dr Mazalan recapitulates the state government initiative to empower NGOs through the State NGO Strategic Action Plan

moderate the dialogue where Umno veteran and Perak NGOs Front adviser Datuk Mohd Sani Supi, and Open University Malaysia academician and Ipoh City Watch president Dr Richard Ng participated as panellists.

Dr Ng shared with the audience his experience as an NGO activist and stressed the importance of the role of volunteerism, adding that volunteerism was the backbone of civil societies. He said the work of volunteers should be appreciated by the government and more so by the public because of the time, resources and energy spent by them for the betterment of society.

Mohd Sani, meanwhile, said that in Perak the state government had established a good relationship with NGOs and had recognised their contributions. He said NGOs needed to be more active in addressing issues affecting

their local communities. "They must stay focused on their objectives and help the needy people. Both NGOs and the (state) government must work hand-in-hand and complement each other with their respective expertise." ■



Audience raises their hands to respond to Dr Ng's question as he shares his NGO experiences

SustNET Seeks IDR Help to Promote Sustainable Development

24 JULY 2017
IDR KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

THE Sustainable Business Network Association Malaysia (SustNET), a Kuala Lumpur-based organisation, hopes to collaborate with the Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) in promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A SustNET delegation recently met representatives of IDR. Chief operating officer Abdul Qadir Osman Aros represented the IDR. Other IDR officers present were Norliyati Mat Noh, Mohd Nadzri Kamsin and Muhammad Azraf Jamaludin.

SustNET is an association comprising corporations and individuals whose main objective is to drive integration of Sustainable Development Goals in business practices. One of its primary objectives is to raise public awareness in the community through evidence-based advocacy and familiarisation with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In its presentation, SustNET explained the focus areas of the organisation which were green business, forest reservation, port management and green industry related activities.

The focus areas are being implemented through project facilitation, trainings and

networking. The organisation is currently working hand-in-hand with International Institute of Peace and Sustainable Development (IIPSD) and Green Project Management to establish IIPSD's campuses in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Johor Bahru.

SustNET is seeking IDR's cooperation to work with it to promote sustainable development in Malaysia and to garner support from the Perak state government for the setting up of IIPSD's campus in Ipoh. The association is exploring options for location of the campus.

The association was advised to look for a spot between Ipoh and Seri Iskandar as the area between these two places was being developed as an education hub area for Perak. Both parties agreed that the matter needs more rounds of discussions.

IDR representatives assured that they would be able to help by facilitating the process of setting up the new campus as well as to engage SustNET to work with businesses and government agencies in Perak to promote sustainable practices in business. ■

Creating More Confident Tourism Frontliners

26 & 27 JULY 2017
IDR KNOWLEDGE CENTRE



Abdul Rahman and the workshop participants cheer after the end of the workshop

A TWO-DAY workshop held in the last week of July for tourism frontliners received good response with the participation of over 60 people from various sectors.

The workshop, organised by the Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) in collaboration with Tourism Perak, saw participation of entrepreneurs, tourist officials, members of non-governmental organisations and local authorities. The course modules consisted of three main areas: competencies, knowledge sharing and group presentations.

Fatimah Abu Bakar from the Celebrating Thinkers facilitated the workshop. She guided the participants on improving communication skills and taught them on how to handle and take good care of visitors and tourists.

In his welcoming remark, Zulhymi Effendy Zakaria, tourism officer from Perak Tourism, said the workshop would improve the participants' personal confidence and inter-personal communication skills.

Abdul Majid, an experienced tourist guide, was invited as a guest speaker. He shared his experiences in handling tourists' needs and stressed on the importance of tourism

frontliners to equip themselves with knowledge of local tourism products in order to become effective tourism frontliners.

Abdul Rahman Hashim, who is head of IDR's business unit, delivered the closing speech with a reminder to the participants to use knowledge and skills obtained at the workshop and to share the same knowledge with their colleagues.

"As frontliners, all of you must act professionally and treat visitors with respect. Think of yourself as an ambassador and you will provide high quality service to every visitor to our state," he said. ■

THE **SAVE DATE**

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GOOD INTENTIONS



My life's journey has taught me many incredible things about myself, life itself and the meaning of our journey in this world. Yet if there is one thing I wish to leave behind as my legacy, is the philosophy of practising good intentions. Good intentions, in my humble opinion, have the ability to empower even the most mundane of task and rejuvenate the lowest of spirits. Good intentions, pave open the door of limitless possibilities that can realise our dreams, where its not impossible to feel that the universe conspires to make things happen through miraculous ways.

I remember when I was studying in the United States, I was very affected by the Tsunami in Aceh and felt the strong urge to help the people who were suffering in agony over the loss of loved ones, their belongings and livelihood. At that point of time, I had no experience of handling social work what more in a foreign land but somehow, my heart was telling me to push forward and believe that everything will fall into place eventually. The first thing I did was to establish my connections and I made sure that the people around me were aware of the sheer magnamity of suffering that the Acehnese were going through. The second challenge was fundraising and beating the drums of awareness in order to achieve the highest volume. I admit, there were times I felt that I should just rest my towel and give up on the fight because it was proven to be harder than I thought.

Suddenly, random people started coming forward with offers to help me in my cause. A graphic designer offered to help design my fundraising posters for free, lawyers came forward offering their services to ensure that the legal process of fundraising was completely followed. Everything, then, started coming together and I finally managed to send the right help to the people affected. All praises to Allah almighty, we were actually able to help them beyond what I first expected. It was a surreal experience for me and for the first time in my life, I realised that as human beings we all have it in us to play a bigger role than what our society conventionally wants us to believe.

This brings me to my second reflection on the human condition, or in Malaysia, to say the least. Our society has the undeniable tendency to point their finger to the government or any point of authority whenever something does not go their way. 'Why didn't the Public Works Department do this? Why can't the local government fix the road? Why is no one helping the single mothers, the homeless children or the poor?'. And they would be asking all these questions while sitting in the comfort of their

air-conditioned homes. The question that we really need to ask ourselves is: What are we doing about it? This is where good intentions come in play and with that greater good will come flowing like an endless stream of a magnificent river that brings life and joy into others.

time after work, if we have the intention to let say, improve our command of the English language, we would be spending our time after work in language classes or in front of the computer with YouTube and other language learning applications around. In a short matter of time, we will be able to track



Dr Mazlan visiting Tsunami victim in year 2005

When I bring the philosophy of good intentions in the institutional level, I will always do my best to make my people understand the importance of having a solid, purposeful intention before they start their work. I made it my personal mission to ensure they know how transformative good intentions can be and how they can encourage personal growth. I've read an exemplary life tip that says, "Your future is determined by what you do after work". Most of us clock in and clock out at work everyday. When we finish work, we spend our time at home watching television or hanging out with friends. However, if we have the intention to improve ourselves, the way we look at life and ourselves will change, and most importantly, our actions will too. Instead of wasting

improvements and be set on our way to master the English language proficiently.

The same goes with all of our undertakings and this is what I want to encourage in our institution. When every individual in Institut Darul Ridzuan is determined to follow their dreams, their good intention, then no one will have time to waste on useless bickering, gossiping and more. The iconic Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be careful of your thoughts, for your thoughts become your words. Be careful of your words, for your words become your actions. Be careful of your actions, for your actions become your habits. Be careful of your habits, for your habits become your character. Be careful of your character, for your character becomes your destiny."