

Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise global partnerships for sustainable development.



Muafakat Membawa Berkat

SDG 17, which promotes partnerships and collaboration to achieve sustainable development, is well represented by the classical Malay peribahasa "*Muafakat membawa berkat*" (consensus brings blessings). This saying highlights the importance of unity, cooperation, and shared purpose in achieving meaningful outcomes.

At UM, this value is embraced through strategic collaborations with local communities, government agencies, international institutions, and industry partners. These partnerships drive impactful research, knowledge exchange, and community development efforts that support the broader SDG agenda. By working together across disciplines and borders, UM reinforces the idea that true progress is built on collective strength and mutual respect.

Strengthening Regional and Global Partnerships

Universiti Malaya (UM) has demonstrated direct involvement with government and non-government organisations (NGOs) on the regional and national scale. Emphasis is placed on SDG policy development which includes identifying challenges, developing strategies, modelling possible futures with and without intervention, reporting on interventions, and facilitating adaptive management.

Throughout 2024, initiatives such as the Partnerships in Accelerating SDGs programme, the "Building a Cradle-to-Grave Care Economy for Malaysia" policy paper launch, and the Transformational Sustainability Leadership Model are examples of UM's relationships with government and NGOs for SDG policy. These efforts, among many others involving UM, all lead to advancing various SDGs through the power of collaboration. UM will continue to place its trust in and cooperate with government bodies and NGOs for a more sustainable future.

Partnerships to Accelerate the SDGs

UM has direct access to government organisations and regional NGOs for reviewing and developing SDG policies. UM had the privilege of joining the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) in their 1st meeting of its "Partners in Accelerating SDGs" series for 2024. The meeting was held at APPGM-SDG's Secretariat office in Petaling Jaya, Selangor on 5th February. APPGM-SDG invited representatives from UM including members from UM Sustainability Development Centre (UMSDC) and UM Community Engagement Centre (UMCares) while the external organisations present included the National SDG Centre under the Ministry of Economy Malaysia, MySDG Foundation, and Yayasan Hasanah under the sovereign wealth fund of Malaysia Khazanah Nasional Berhad. The meeting acted as a platform for all stakeholders present to foster collaboration and discuss strategies to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs for Malaysia.

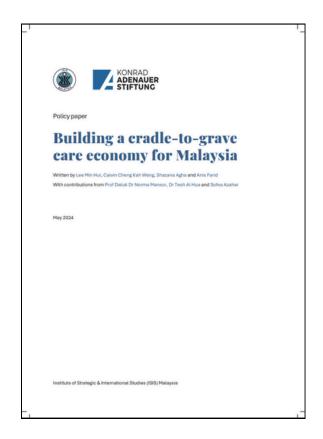
Participants also took the opportunity to highlight the critical role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in driving SDGs implementation through research (SDG 9) and education (SDG 4). Collaborations such as these foreground UM's focus on sustainable development (SDG 11) and sustainability partnership (SDG 17).

Below: Highlights from the "Partners in Accelerating SDGs" Meeting (<u>UMSDC</u>)



Shaping Policies to Achieve the SDGs

UM's collaborative efforts also extend to NGOs that also champion SDGs. In June 2024, UM worked with the Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), a Malaysian non-profit organisation working to advance gender equality and end violence against women. Director of UM Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), Prof Datuk Dr Norma Mansor contributed to the launch of a policy paper titled "Building a Cradle-to-Grave Care Economy". The paper was a joint effort between members of SWRC, WAO, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). The team addressed the increasing demand for care services due to Malaysia's ageing population and shrinking labour force in the policy paper. The launch of the policy paper was accompanied by a panel discussion on 21st June 2024 at ISIS Malaysia's auditorium. Research programmes and policy reviews such as these show how UM works with NGOs to drive economic growth (SDG 8), empower marginalised groups (SDG 10), and ensure equitable policies (SDG 16).



Above: Policy paper titled "Building a cradle-to-grave economy for Malaysia (ISIS Malaysia)

Below: Members of SWRC at the policy paper launch (<u>SWRC</u>)



Supporting the National Planetary Health Action Plan



Above: Highlights from the workshop (<u>UMSDC</u>)

UM's relationship with the government and NGOs involves providing input through capacity building and awareness workshops. From 28th February to 1st March 2024, UM's Centre for Civilised Dialogue (UMCCD) organised a <u>capacity building pilot workshop</u> on Transformational Sustainability Leadership Module for the National Planetary Health Action Plan (TSLM -NPHAP). The programme was funded by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI). Several committees from UM's sustainability network came together to make this workshop a success namely UMCCD, UMSDC, UM STEM Centre, Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), the Department of Science and Technology Studies (STS) from the Faculty of Science, Rimba Ilmu, and UM Zero Waste Campaign (ZWC).

The workshop aimed to catalyse transformational sustainability leadership, thus equipping participants with the drive to make transformative change and exchanges. Participants of this workshop were a mix of government and NGO members such as <u>Institut Masa Depan</u> Malaysia (MASA), GRASS Malaysia, Yayasan Sime Darby, UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), Bahá'í Centre Malaysia, Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM), and Sunway University - Sunway Centre for Planetary Health. At the end of the programme, participants gained a deeper understanding of planetary health complexities (SDG 13), policy formulation for sustainable practices (SDG 11), and the importance of collaboration to achieve the SDGs (SDG 17).

ESD for the SDGs: UM as an ESD Strategic Partner

UM's efforts to achieve the SDGs also align with the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) framework. On 3rd July 2024, the Secretary-General of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU), Fadzilah Fadzil representing H.E. Fadhlina Sidek, Minister of Education (MoE) Malaysia and the President of MNCU, officiated the opening ceremony of the ESD for 2030 Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on Transforming the Futures of Education: Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development in Learning Systems, at Sunway University. There, she announced the formation of the National Coalition of ESD Strategic Partners that will be tasked with action planning on ESD implementation encompassing policy, learning environments, educator capacity-building, youth engagement, and local-level action. Members of the coalition include MoE, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), WWF Malaysia, Green Growth Asia Foundation, Amanah Lestari Alam, and experts from Sunway University, UM, and Nottingham University Malaysia. As an HEI in Malaysia, UM has a responsibility to integrate ESD principles into its educational frameworks.

This sentiment was highlighted by Madam Fadzilah during the meeting when she explained how Malaysia is paving the way for young people to relate how and what they learn to make a difference, becoming active agents of positive change, equipped with the ethical awareness and critical thinking skills to tackle complex global issues such as poverty (SDG 1), inequality (SDG 10), climate change (SDG 13), and biodiversity loss (SDG 14 & 15).



Above and below: Audience and speakers of the meeting (SDSN, UNESCO)



SDG Dialogue Across Sectors

The SDGs are a call for action that encompasses all sectors. As such, dialogue surrounding the SDGs often links various disciplines that otherwise do not interact. From areas such as circular economics, sustainability in religion, and youth leadership, cross-sectoral dialogue remains dynamic and updated. Special emphasis is placed on dialogue involving the youth as they represent the future drivers of sustainable practices. In 2024, UM had the privilege of involving their youngest undergraduate since the university's establishment in talks on sustainability.

Dialogue is often the first step in realising partnerships before execution. With a vision as comprehensive and impactful as the SDGs, UM's dedication to sustainability is underscored by the quality and quantity of cross-sectoral dialogue initiatives it participates in.

A Date with Earth: A Circular Economy Fair

UM facilitates cross sectoral dialogue about SDGs by involving the government and NGOs in activities on campus. On 18th May 2024, UMZWC under IAS organised "A Date with Earth: A Circular Economy Fair". Visitors to the fair were met with a preloved items market, an oil recycling and buyback centre, and a circular economy talk by Malaysian Green Tech and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) under the Ministry of Environment together with Kawan Guni, a registered social enterprise under the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development. The event served as an interactive way to educate the public on sustainable resource production and consumption (SDG 12) through collaboration with relevant agencies (SDG 17).



Above: Poster for the talk (<u>IAS</u>)

Connecting Islam to Sustainability: Religious Dialogue for the SDGs

Sustainability impacts several aspects of life, and religion is one of them. On 12th August 2025, UMCCD organised and hosted a public lecture titled "Islam for Sustainability and Well-being: A Civilisational Dialogue". UM had the privilege of welcoming Sociologist Fellow and Collaborator from Hokkaido University, Professor Dr. "Sensei" Yusuf Morishita to present the lecture. His presentation showed the connection between Islam and sustainability with focus on how Islam can enhance sustainability in Japan's social environment. Islam's contribution to sustainability through sociological and cultural perspectives was observed from the POVs of SDG 3, SDG 11, and SDG 17. Sensei touched on the concept of Ummah in Islam which is a type of inclusive community that offers traits like borderlessness, inclusivity, and quality social bonds. His discussion also included how the expansion of the Islamic Ummah in Japan and the role of individual Muslims may contribute to harmonious communities. According to Sensei, by embodying Islamic principles and practicing respect and integration with Japanese standards, Muslims can contribute to a more harmonious and inclusive community which benefits both Muslims and non-Muslims. The takeaway from the lecture is that sustainability may not only refer to just maintaining wellbeing but also facilitating growth via shared ideals and mutual respect to ensure that communities thrive.

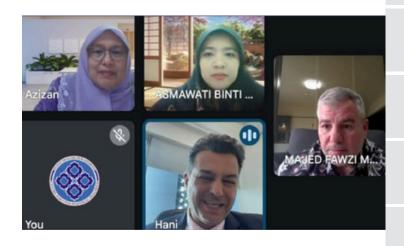




Above: Sensei Yusuf Morishita delivering his talk on the connection between Islam and sustainability (<u>UMCCD</u>)

Discussions for Youth Sustainability Leadership

One objective of cross sectoral dialogue is to prompt action to achieve the SDGs. On 27th August 2024, UMCCD with Senior Lecturer from the UM Academy of Islamic Studies (APIUM), Dr. Majed Fawzi Mohammad Abughazalah had an online collaborative discussion with an expert from the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) in Morocco, Dr Hani Al Balawi. The meeting aimed to reinforce collaboration through joint efforts (SDG 17) in organising conferences, seminars, and talks on cultural exchange (SDG 11) and civilisational dialogue. During the meeting, UMCCD presented a proposal on Youth Sustainability Leadership for ICESCO's consideration (SDG 16).



Above: Participants of the online discussion with ICESCO (<u>UMCCD</u>)

Below: UM's young genius, Izz Imil Shahrom (<u>Corporate@UM</u>), Izz Imil Shahrom at Festival of Ideas (Prime Minister's Office)

UM's Young Genius, Izz Imil Shahrom on the SDGs

UM amplifies the voices of the youth in dialogue surrounding the SDGs. From 27th to 29th November 2024, the first ever Putrajaya Festival of Ideas (FOI) was held at PICC with a special appearance from UM's young genius, Izz Imil Shahrom. The Putrajaya FOI is a new initiative by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) Malaysia to gather thought leaders, experts, policymakers, academics, industry professionals, and the public on a prestigious platform to share innovative ideas to current national and global challenges.

On Day 2 of the event, the child prodigy spoke in a session titled "Idea Masa Depan Malaysia" with Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He envisions his future as a mathematics lecturer who contributes to global sustainable development initiatives by addressing issues concerning the SDGs. At 12 years old, Izz is the youngest student to enrol in UM since the university's establishment in 1962. He joined the 2024/2025 session as a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics after undergoing an interview with a special committee appointed by UM.



International Collaboration and Best Practices

As the foremost research university in the country, UM spares no expense when it comes to international collaborations for data gathering and formulating the best practices to achieve the SDGs. UM's research spans areas such as health and medicine, climate action and water security, as well as even the role of the arts and humanities sectors in their pursuit for more sustainable practices. 2024 saw UM host international research delegates, participate in symposiums, and organise conferences dedicated to sustainability research.

Through these international collaborations, UM's emphasis on partnerships for the goals is evident. By gathering data and exchanging ideas from prominent research figures in related fields, UM is dedicated to fine-tuning its practices to better contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Joint Health Research Between East and West

UM also welcomes international delegates interested in establishing collaborations for SDG data collection. On 16th April 2024, UM's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research & Education Centre (TIDREC) received a delegation from the Public Health Division, Defense Health Agency (DHA), United States Department of Defense. The US delegation consisted of nine people and was led by Director of Public Health DHA, Rear Admiral Brandon L Taylor. The delegation group also featured Commanding Officer from the US Naval Medical Research Unit Indo Pacific, CAPT Jonathan Stahl.

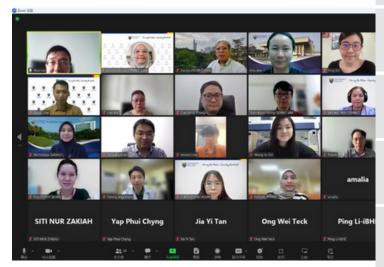
Receiving them at UM was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Ir. Dr. Kaharudin Dimyati at the High Impact Research (HIR) building. The delegates were subsequently brought on a guided tour of the research facilities and labs available at TIDREC. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen existing research and data collection collaborations (SDG 17) and discuss further collaborations of a higher level in health and disease research (SDG 3).

Below: Delegates from the US Department of Defense (<u>TIDREC</u>)



International Data Gathering for Health and Immunity

UM's efforts towards collaboration extend to online platforms in addition to physical platforms. On 10th May 2024, an online symposium was held between TIDREC and the Institute of Biomedical and Health Engineering (iBHE) at the Tsinghua University Shenzhen International Graduate School (SIGS), China. The symposium was jointly organised by UM and iBHE's Liuxiao Immunomics Lab. This meeting represented a follow-up to SIGS' visit to UM on 11th January 2024. The aim of the meeting was to advance understanding and collaboration (SDG 17) between researchers of TIDREC and iBHE while enhancing scientific research and technology development for human health (SDG 3). Officiating the symposium were director of TIDREC, Professor Dr. Sazalv Abu Bakar and associate dean of iBHE, Professor Dr. Xing Xinhui. Up to 30 researchers, teachers, and students attended the symposium featuring presentations on vaccines, infections, and immunity research.



Above: Participants of TIDREC-iBHE online symposium (Luixiao Lab)

Best Practices for Our Water



Above: Poster for the public forum (<u>UMSDC</u>)

As part of World Environment Day 2024, UM prepared platforms for developing SDG best practices through collaboration. On 8th June 2024, a panel discussion titled "Guarding Our Water Together" was jointly organised by UMSDC, Monash University Malaysia, and PJ SEED 5.0 Sustainable Community Project. The public forum addressed critical environmental issues and explored innovative solutions, with special highlights on water conservation and plastic pollution. Panel members include Dr. Faddrine Jang from Monash, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurhidayatullaili Muhd Julkapli from NANOCAT, and Mr. Affan Nasaruddin from UMSDC and Water Warriors. Topics shared that day include "Trash Talk: The Underwater Drama of Plastic Pollution" (SDG 13), "Advancements in Water Security: Harnessing Advanced Materials for Purification and Protection" (SDG 6), and "Water Warriors Living Lab: Restoration of Tasik Varsiti, Universiti Malaya Through 'Heartware -Hardware - Software' Approach" (SDG 14).

Utilising Art and Science for the SDGs

In the pursuit for sustainability, UM takes inspiration from both the sciences and humanities. On 12th and 13th June 2024, UM held the International Conference on Enhancing ArtScience in the Age of Sustainability (ICASAS'24). The combined efforts of UMCCD, IAS, Azman Hashim Chair of Music Universiti Malaya, and Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) made the conference a success. As teased in the official poster for the event, sub-themes of the conference include ArtScience for Achieving a More Complete and Universal Understanding of the Sustainability Imperative; ArtScience for Understanding Human Experience of Nature through the Synthesis of Scientific Exploration and Artistic Expressions; Teaching Art, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in an Integrated Manner; and ArtScience for the Rehumanisation of all Knowledge.

ICASAS'24 brought together a diverse range of professionals from their respective specialties where a total of 16 presentations were given over two days. Alongside presenters from UM were external research organisations and universities such as the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), IIUM; University of Cairo, Egypt; Institute for Oriental Philosophy (IOP), Japan; Universiti Utara Malaysia; and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). This conference aims to continue to become an opportunity for researchers to collaboratively exchange data on their research (SDG 17), highlight the vital roles of stakeholders and policymakers for sustainability (SDG 16) and realise the importance of ArtScience for planetary health and wellbeing (SDG 3, SDG 13).

Below: Poster for the conference (<u>UMCCD</u>) (left) and scenes during the International Conference on Enhancing ArtScience in the Age of Sustainability (ICASAS'24) (right)



Partnerships for Ethical Health Practices

UM understands the value of partnerships when developing the best international practices to tackle the SDGs. A forum titled "Ethics in global health interventions" was held at the Auditorium of Mercu Alam Bina, UM on 24th July 2024. The forum was held under the APRU SDG Education for Global Citizenship (APRU SDG4GC), a collaboration programme by the UN together with UM and five other partner universities. APRU SDG4GC represents an intercultural, transdisciplinary, and interactive programme that fosters global citizenship (SDG 17) among students from 61 universities in 18 economies across the Pacific Rim. The objective of this forum was to explore the nuanced ethical considerations vital to the implementation and design of health initiatives across diverse cultural landscapes.

Panellists of the forum include Former Director for the Institute for Clinical Research at National Institutes for Health (NIH), Datuk Dr Kalaiarasu M. Peariasamy; Associate Public Health Officer from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Dr Susheela Balasundram; and Associate Professor at UM's Faculty of Medicine, A/P Dr Tharani Loganathan. The forum acknowledges the complex ethical challenges in global health interventions (SDG 3) and subsequently attempts to foster a comprehensive understanding among those facing ethical dilemmas in the field.



Above: Participants and speakers of the forum (<u>Faculty of Medicine</u>)

Global Collaborations for Climate Action

UM makes sure to allocate resources to enable opportunities for international data gathering collaborations. From 11th to 22nd November 2024, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held its 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. UM's Climate Change Advisory Committee sent two of its members to attend the COP29 Malaysia Pavillion: Opening Plenary Session on 11th November. They were the Director of UMSDC, Associate Professor Dr Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad and Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, Professor Dr Surinderpal Kaur.

The session, co-organised by MGTC, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), and PEMANDU Associates, was held to set the stage for the coordination of Malaysia's participation at COP29 with all attending parties. There, an opening keynote was given by the Secretary General of the NRES, YBhg. Datuk Dr. Ching Thoo A/L Kim in the morning and a presentation titled "Attracting Green Investments into the Nation" was delivered by Group CEO of MGTC, Ir. Ts. Shamsul Bahar Mohd Nor. The theme for COP29 was "In Solidarity for a Green World" with the aim of gathering world leaders and stakeholders to exchange data (SDG 16) and discuss strategies to address climate change (SDG 13).



Above: Associate Prof Dr. Zeeda and Prof Dr. Surinderpal at COP29

Below: Members of the UM Climate Change Advisory Committee (<u>UMSDC</u>)



NGO Collaborations: Volunteering, Research, & Education

The United Nations defines non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as a non-profit organization, group or institution that operates independently from a Government and has humanitarian or development objectives. UM acknowledges the valuable contributions of NGOs and actively collaborates with them for sustainability projects.

In 2024, NGOs such as APPGM-SDG, EcoKnights, and Hara Makers worked together with UM through volunteering activities, research, and education outreach. The road to the SDGs is a long one and collaboration goes a long way. With the help of NGOs providing their time, energy, and hands-on experience, UM's goal of being a leading sustainable university may come to fruition.

Amplifying Voices of the Youth for the SDGs

UM makes sure to include NGOs in their journey to tackle the SDGs. On 9th June 2024, UM collaborated with APPGM-SDG to hold a "Empowering Student Leaders for SDG Action" programme. The programme was organised and led by APPGM-SDG with support from Ungku Aziz Centre for Developmental Studies (UAC), UMSDC, and UMCares. The programme brought together students from various universities to exchange best practices and strategies for campus and community sustainability.

Key activities during the programme include Developing Your SDG Leadership Toolkit, a panel session on Youth Leadership for the SDGs, and Developing Action Plan & Moving Forward. Through this programme, students gained access to valuable learning experiences (SDG 4), insights to tackle net zero challenges in the urban context (SDG 11), and a network for collaboration to contribute to the SDGs (SDG 17).



Above: Posters presented at the programme

Below: Participants of the programme (<u>UMSDC</u>)



Hands-on Sustainability Education with NGOs

UM acknowledges the valuable insights and contributions NGOs provide for the SDGs. On 18th June 2024, participants of the ESD Mobility Program 2024 from Coventry University facilitated by UMSDC joined a session with EcoKnights and Hara Makers for interactive sessions on sustainability and conservation.

EcoKnights is an NGO that works with key stakeholders to empower sustainable actions such as policy advocacy, handson community efforts, and youth volunteerism.

On the other hand, Hara Makers is an NGO dedicated to the art of upcycling and responsible waste management. The sessions were conducted at UM's Research Management & Innovation Complex (KPPI) by EcoKnights Acting President, Mr Amlir Ayat and Hara Makers Co-founder and COO, Mrs. Chee Lee Yoon. Participants joined activities such as a talk titled "Is Sustainable Development Realistic?", introductions to EcoKnights' and Hara Makers conservation efforts that reduce carbon footprint (SDG 13), and a hands-on session on innovative waste management solutions (SDG 12).





Above: "Is Sustainable Development Realistic?" talk with EcoKnights and action planning activities

Below: Participants of the ESD Mobility Program 2024



SDG Education for All: No Community Left Behind

The SDGs involve and affect everybody. As such, SDG education across both the inner and outer layers of the community will equip people with the knowledge to live more sustainably. More specifically, UM's SDG education aims to improve university alumni, local community, and refugees or displaced people.

UM aims to bring awareness to these communities about sustainable living and hopes that they will join the university in our joint journey to achieve the SDGs.

Worldwide Outreach for the Goals

From 7th to 14th July 2024, the UM Volunteers Secretariat (SEKRUM) embarked on a humanitarian mission called Misi Kemanusiaan Antarabangsa Indonesia (MKAI) 1.0 to Lhoknga, Aceh. The main goal of the mission was to carry out community empowerment and environmental awareness sessions with underprivileged children. These include simple educational activities (SDG 4) and exposure to the effects and solutions of global warming (SDG 13).

Additionally, the volunteers took the initiative to restore and upgrade the Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini (PAUD) building and hold Quran reading classes at Gampong Lamkruet. The weeklong journey ended with a Cultural Night full of performances (SDG 11) and a session dedicated to distributing food donations to 100 families across several villages (SDG 2).

Below: Activities with underprivileged children (left) and food distribution to families in the village (right)

