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Visit by KONAN University



University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) has been forging good relationships with Konan University especially via Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi, Philosophy Professor from the Department of Human Sciences. One of Professor Taniguchi's specialties is environmental ethics and environmental education. From March 13 till March 17, 2010, Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi and his students embarked on the Konan University 86th Seminar Study Tour of the Aboriginal Settlement in Endau-Rompin which was sponsored by Konan University. This Study Tour was also joined by three UMUC members namely Muhammad Azri Safwat bin Rizan, Md Noor Musa, dan Zazren Ismail. The Konan University's delegation also paid a visit to UMCCD on March 13, 2010. Among the other aims of this visit is to strengthen further collaboration between UMCCD and Konan University and consequently to enhance the internationalisation of both Universities. At the meeting, besides a lecture given by Professor Taniguchi on Sustainable Development, the students of University of Malaya, Konan University, and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) also exchanged views on Sustainable Development.

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Public Lecture: Education for Sustainable Development from the Context of Environmental Philosophy by Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi

Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi, a well-known Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies from Konan University in Japan gave a public lecture on 13 March 2010 at the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. This lecture aimed to disseminate the concept of Education for Sustainable Development.

Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi started his presentation by explaining the meaning of dialogue and the need for it. According to Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi, dialogue is derived from a Greek word: *dialogos* (*dia*=through and *logos*=speak), meaning words or conversation between partners. Dialogue, according to him, proposes a division between two or more parties, such as between human and human, between human and nature, and between cultures and civilizations. Dialogue provides a common platform or communication channel for different and diverse situations which eventually helps us to seek the truth.



According to Taniguchi, sustainable development must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Our Common Future, 1987). He further underlines the principles of Education for Sustainable Development according to various declarations, such as the "Earth Charter," "UN Declaration on the Human Environment," the "Belgrade Charter," the "Tbilisi Declaration," and the "Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development."

A series of case studies on Education for Sustainable Development were presented during the lecture: such as the case of the deformed Japanese Monkey in Awaji Island in Hyogo Prefecture, and Minamata Diseases in Minamata City in Kumamoto Prefecture. Both cases involved foods polluted by agricultural chemicals or organic mercury.

CONCLUSION

Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi emphasized four key points.

- 1) NGOs play a primary role in promoting dialogue.
 - Needless to say, inter-faith and inter-civilisation dialogues (quantity) are necessary, but we could propose the importance of inter-culturisation (quality) to deepen and create local peculiar culture continuously.
- 2) The basis of the ethics of dialogue entails balance and cooperation in doing good, in justice, humility and patience.
 - It is important to keep the sustainability of a dynamic life and environment in order to actualise a sustainable future.
- 3) Networking of the daily life, local community and policies of local and central government is important according to the Earth Charter.
 - For the global networking to build further bridges we may use high technology such as tele-conference systems.
- 4) We should leave narrow ego-consciousness and move toward a broader eco-consciousness through dialogue.

The presentation was followed by the discussion session in which students from Konan University, University Malaya, and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam exchanged views and experiences regarding their activities related to sustainable development.

Reported by: Lili Fariza Ariffin

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA UNESCO CLUB (UMUC) ACTIVITIES

Reported by: Lili Fariza Ariffin



World Wetland Day 2010

Date : 2nd February, 2010

Venue : Kuala Selangor Nature Park

World Wetland Day is celebrated yearly. The annual event commemorates the signing of the "Convention on Wetlands" on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. For the year 2010, the celebration in Malaysia was organised by the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) through the Kuala Selangor Nature Park.



Six University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) members, Mohd Fadhi Rahmat Fakri, Mohamed Azmi Mohd Rasheed Khan, Muhammad Azri Safwat Rizan, Naemah Suhaimi, Zazren Ismail, and Lili Fariza Ariffin participated in the programme, which consisted of several interesting activities. For starters, participants planted mangrove trees; they visited Kampung Kuantan to watch the fireflies, they attended a talk on the importance of mangrove sites, and they took a study tour around the Kuala Selangor Nature Park.

Intercultural Activity: Visit by Konan University, Japan

Date : 13-17 March, 2010

Venue : Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and Endau-Rompin National Park, Johor

University of Malaya's Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and University of Malaya UNESCO Club has forged good relationships with Konan University, especially with Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi, Philosophy Professor from the Department of Human Sciences. Professor Taniguchi's specialty is "Environmental Ethics and Environmental Education." From March 13 until March 17, 2010, Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi and his students embarked on Konan University's 86th Seminar Study Tour to the Aboriginal Settlement in Endau-Rompin which was sponsored by Konan University. This Study Tour was joined by three UMUC members namely Muhammad Azri Safwat bin Rizan, Mohd Noor Musa, and Zazren Ismail. Konan University's delegation also paid a visit to UMCCD on March 13, 2010. This visit aimed to strengthen collaboration between UMCCD and Konan University, and to enhance the internationalization of both Universities. At a lively lecture given by Professor Taniguchi on Sustainable Development, the students of University of Malaya, Konan University, and Unit exchanged views on Sustainable Development.



At the Aboriginal Settlement



Participants of the Study Tour