

Universiti Kuala Lumpur

XGRESS

Special Edition

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INCREDIBLE MEMORIES

USLS Delegates Inspired by Malaysia's Prime Minister
Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Welcoming Speech

“ I AM THE REASON FOR THE ACCIDENT AS I FELL ASLEEP AT THE WHEELS. EVERYONE EXPERIENCES TOUGH TIMES BUT TO ME ALL THAT CAN BE REVERSED INTO SUCCESS. CRISIS, SOMETIMES, CAN CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR DIRECTIONS. MOVE FORWARD.”

- Sam Cawthorn, USLS Speaker

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OVERVIEW OF USLS

The annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) is a platform organised by Humanitarian Affairs Asia in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme that nurtures and grooms emerging leaders to be world-class humanitarian movers.

For budding humanitarians, USLS is the first step of a life-long journey. It is specially designed for youths on how to understand the ever-changing world.

Delegates who attended the 10th USLS from August 1-7 at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam, Malaysia are nominated by their respective universities. Through talks by motivational speakers, USLS delegates are encouraged to realise their potentials as future leaders. They were given every opportunity of turning their passion around into realisation.

The week-long symposium is hosted by the Ministry of Education Malaysia with the collaboration of Humanitarian Affairs Asia. The strategic partners are Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

The Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, graced the opening ceremony that was attended by 1,000 delegates from 85 countries, some of whom dressed in their traditional national costumes.

The Chief Minister of Selangor YAB Dato' Amirudin Shari, Minister of Education YB Dr Maszlee Malik, his deputy YB Teo Nie Ching, Universiti Kuala Lumpur Chairman YBhg Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman Sarmani, UniKL President and Chief Executive Officer YBhg Prof Dato' Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, YBhg Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir (Director General of Higher Education Ministry), YBrs Dr Zaid Omar (Director Holistic Student Development Department, MOE), YBhg Dato' Dr Mohd Gazali Abas (Chief Secretary, MOE) and YBhg Datuk Zulkefli Sharif (CEO) also attended the opening ceremony.

Others included Humanitarian Affairs Asia Secretary-General Mr Kim Solomon, Ms Janice Leong (Regional Director, Humanitarian Affairs Asia), YBhg Datuk Zulkefli Hj Sharif, the Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau, and Mr Felipe Queipo, Communication Officer, Department of Global Communications, United Nations Headquarters.

The 10th USLS focussed on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The Theme of this year's symposium was 'Together We Serve'.

On 'Service Day' delegates were streamed into five groups and carried out various activities such as giving a school for the Indigenous community children a new coat of paint, fun-games for children of refugees in Gombak and Sepang.

Ever since its initiation, the USLS atmosphere ignites delegates passion for humanity, drive them to step out of their comfort zone and set their heart on a greater cause beyond self-preservation. It will challenge them to live a life of service, with passion, persistence, patience and purpose.

This is the second time USLS was hosted by Malaysia. The inaugural event was held in Malacca in 2010.

TUN DR MAHATHIR: LEADERSHIP IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE



THE Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad fired the first salvo during the official launch of the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) held at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam.

The nonagenarian and 'most experienced Prime Minister in the world' shared his wisdom with 1,000 student leaders from 85 countries involving 95 universities around the world when he said leadership is not rocket science but a lifelong task of learning and experience.

"Firstly, a leader must have integrity and honesty, without them, a leader would be corrupt and untrustworthy. Next, a leader must be willing to work hard and to have pride in their work. A leader must have the hunger for knowledge and be aware of the changes around him," said the Prime Minister.

He expressed that it has always been his desire to see youths being competitive and inculcate themselves with capabilities to take on the rest of the world. Dr Mahathir also remarked that retaining ideals and upholding noble values will mould youths into good leaders.

It is a pleasure to see the young investing time to learn leadership skills and cultivate awareness on current issues, said Dr Mahathir, primarily on social development and humanitarian efforts that are being discussed at this symposium. This programme has been designed for young persons throughout the world who are committed to making the world a much better place for all mankind.

"I would like to welcome you to Malaysia. You'll discover that it is a kind of a melting pot of different cultures and customs. We take pride in our diversity as well as our ability to hold the nation together and turn it from an agrarian nation into an industrialised country.

"Malaysia has become a place where different races came and stayed on, and you will discover that our tagline "Malaysia, Truly Asia" is not merely a promotional slogan but is indeed what we offer to visitors' et al," added Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the Ministry of Education Malaysia and Humanitarian Affairs Asia for organising the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium. The strategic partners for this symposium are the Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture, Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau and Universiti Kuala Lumpur. Also present were the Minister of Education Dr Maszlee Malik, his deputy Teo Nie Ching and Humanitarian Affairs Asia Secretary-General Mr Kim Solomon.

"It is very important that youths, who will inherit the future realise that if they can retain their ideals and values, there is then much hope for the somewhat derailed world to get back on track and give humanity a chance.

"Whatever or however our contributions maybe, if we believe that giving our best to the nation is noble and a worthy cause, then our nation is blessed with a responsible and conscientious citizenry.

Noble values, Dr Mahathir stressed, are important in development. The Prime Minister stressed that every youth should possess good values and inculcate them in our way of life and they then become a habit. A nation can be assured that society is on the right track.

Another pertinent point Dr Mahathir touched on is humility, as, without it, a leader would be driven by ego.

"Being humble does not make a leader weak. Instead, it binds him with the people, those who supported him and makes him their leader. If a leader loses touch with his people and supporters, he ceases to be a leader.

"Suffice to say, all the values that had been impressed in our religion, culture and custom will keep a leader's feet firmly planted on the ground."

"A leader should lead not just by mere words but more effectively through example. Being a good leader is not only about being intelligent but one needs to know and have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong, good and evil," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia has been emphasising on the need of our youth to prepare themselves to face disruptions from the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0, from artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things, automation and other technological advancements that we expect and have experienced, changed the way we do things.

He also reminded the younger generation that if they do not keep abreast they will be left behind in the global race and that will result in economic backwardness and even poverty.

"I have mentioned this before that everyone is a leader at some point in time in their lives. One is a leader if one has younger brothers and sisters; one is a leader if one is a club president or the captain of a football team. And when we start working, of course, we will start at the very bottom and have many seniors to report to, but we will eventually climb the employment ladder and end up as leaders," Tun Dr Mahathir stressed.

"In other words, leadership is a lifelong task of learning and experience. The issue is how we fare as a leader. What kind of impact do we make and how much of our leadership touches the lives of others? These are essential concerns and ideals that a leader should know and address," he added.

The Prime Minister encouraged student leaders to develop the leadership quality in them — to become responsive youths in shaping their future and the future of others.

DR MASZLEE MALIK: I HAVE A DREAM



Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik hopes to take the vision and essence of what the USLS stood for into the Malaysian education system.

Dr Maszlee Malik, Malaysia's Minister of Education, in his welcoming address said the University Scholars Leadership Symposium is a global leadership training programme that teaches the values of a positive social change to inspire future leaders to step forward and serve communities in need.

"USLS is just not a course or a networking session. It is a global leadership training programme to bring effective positive social change," he told 1,000 student leaders from 85 countries during the opening session of the 10th USLS in Shah Alam.

"Malaysia is intent on developing individuals who were capable of being problem solvers. This is Malaysia's vision for the nation's higher education sector," he said.

Academic quality, he added, will always be one of the priorities in Malaysia's education system and the nation is making great strides in this area.

He cited University of Malaya listed as one of the world's leading universities by being ranked 17th in the QS World Universities Ranking. Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia are also listed among the 50 outstanding young universities and all are among the top 20 in the latest QS Top 50 Ranking 2020.

Dr Maszlee, however, acknowledged that there is a great need to see above and beyond academic excellence. He expressed hope to take the vision and essence of what the USLS stood for into the Malaysian education system.

“We have dedicated more than RM450 million for problem-solving research grants to public universities. We have also repealed parts of the Universities and University Colleges Act that restricts our students’ ability to be involved in activities related to society.”

“As a true leader, your impact is not measured by the accolades you receive, or the awards you get. It is measured in the lives you have touched. This USLS high impact programme aims to provide an avenue for student leaders from various countries to further enhance their leadership skills and awareness of current issues, primarily social development and humanitarian efforts.

“I have a dream. My dream is about taking the vision, the essence of what USLS stands for and skill it throughout our system. As Paulo Coelho (Brazilian author of the best-selling novel ‘The Alchemist’) said in his book: ‘It is the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.’”

To create a better future, leaders need to have an imagination of what that future will be. And to prepare a better future for the future generation they need to dream and work hard to achieve their dreams.

USLS may also inculcate novel values on humanising education through Love, Happiness and Mutual Respect. The Education Minister hopes that all delegates will soon be enriched with knowledge and increased networking while enjoying a wonderful experience taking in the beauty of Malaysia. It is also my sincere wish that all delegates will become excellent leaders soon.

“There is a line in the Lion King movie where Mufasa (a major character in Disney’s 1994 animated film) said: “While others search for what they can take, a true king searches for what he can give.”

In concluding his speech, Dr Maszlee said: “One last piece of advice. The vision of this programme is to nurture and groom emerging leaders to be world-class humanitarian movers. I hope that the honour of being part of this prestigious programme, and carrying the mantle of being a leader will instil all delegates with confidence, but not arrogance.”

Move on and give yourself to society, to your country and to the world.

KIM SOLOMAN: DIVERSE VOICES STAND TOGETHER



Kim Soloman is passionate in inspiring individuals in the hope of transforming communities around the world.

A man of few words, Solomon's work as Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs Asia is mirrored in his ability to gather thousands of student leaders around the world over the past 10 years for the biggest show on earth – The University Scholars Leadership Symposium.

Held annually in a developing country in the Asia Pacific region, more than 4,300 emerging young leaders from more than 60 countries have attended the USLS since its introduction in 2010. Due to his great understanding of the youth, Solomon shares his decade of experience in the 10th USLS that witnessed the largest ever gathering of delegates.

In his speech to 1,000 delegates that included Malaysia's Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and invited dignitaries at the launch of the symposium, Solomon said: "This annual USLS is where ideas grow, collaborations cemented and we hear diverse voices stand together for a better world."

"There are like-minded delegates who want to build a better future for the young generation. And this symposium is where aspirations begin. And it is my greatest hope that when you go back to your country, nothing is forgotten. Stand up and do something for a community that needs your support," he told the audience.

"You have ample opportunity to network with each other and to help the community in Malaysia, but more importantly, to discover your inner self," added Solomon.

Changes, said Solomon, does not take place overnight. It takes a great deal of time, commitment and dedication to put through something that has been planned for it to bear fruit. Beside commitment, young leaders should also be concerned of the environment around them and do what is required of them to make the wrong right.

"Sometimes there are bound to be obstacles in our pathway and we must strive never to lose hope. Have the courage to see through what you have committed and promised to do," he said.

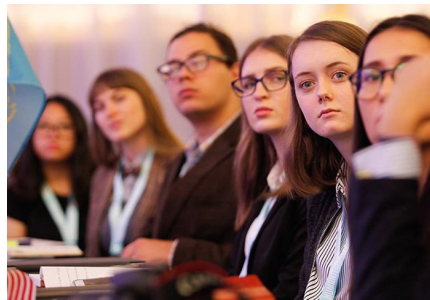
USLS, he added, was created in 2001 to set an action-based example for young people interested in making a difference for those less fortunate.

"There is a whole of service these delegates can offer to society. The experience here will definitely change their own mind-sets and one that will be long lasting," said Mr Solomon.

Mr Solomon's most poignant statement to delegates at the Gala Dinner, was: "If you notice we do not place signage of your country of origin top of the table where you are seated. That is because all of you are global citizens. We are here united as one to serve all."

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY





CONSTANT ADVANCEMENT IN LIFE



PROFESSOR Dato' Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Universiti Kuala Lumpur. He obtained his Master's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Montpellier and a PhD in Computer Engineering from University de la Rochelle in France.

He has been appointed as Malaysian Director for Malaysia-France University Centre (MFUC) by the Ministry of Higher Education. Professor Dr Mazliham shared his experience with delegates as a student himself in France and a lecturer today.

Prof Mazliham's engaging session with delegates using *kahoot*, an online game-based platform, was all about changes that have taken place in the last 50 years. The advancement of technology, he said, has brought about rapid changes to the quality of life and infrastructure over the years to Malaysians in general.

Delegates were asked to guess what certain objects from the past were, intending to show them how things are always changing for the better with technology and know-how. He also shared photos of how the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur looked like before and after development.

The emphasis in his session was to reinforce the fact that there are constant advancements not only within technology but in all areas of life – from the changes cities and townships have experienced to changes that have taken place even in the farming industry. Technology advancements, said Prof Dr Mazliham, should be cultivated to its best use in spreading knowledge, love and breaking barriers.

He then shared the stage with Dr Eiad Yafi, the Deputy Dean of UniKL Institute of Post Graduate Studies who spoke about Syria in its glory days before its conflict. He showed the heart-breaking photos of Syria before and after the conflict and bombings that destroyed many ancient sites that he had visited.

Considering the destructions that have taken place in Syria, especially to the many historical ancient artefacts, Dr Eiad, a Syrian himself, urged delegates not to allow such atrocities and destructions to rear its ugly head again.

Dr Eiad emphasised the need to appreciate whatever we have in life and work hard to preserve it. He added that we must use the power within all of us to spread love, break barriers and reach out to people in need.

He stressed further on the importance of reaching out to every mankind irrespective of race, colour, religion and respect one another so that the world can be a better place to live. He concluded his talk by saying: "People are the same. It is just that the colour of our skin is different."

SUNRISE VILLAGE BRINGS HOPE TO CHILDREN



GERALDINE Cox led a comfortable life in Australia. She had a steady job in the Department of Foreign Affairs, travelled frequently, chauffeur driven and dined at exquisite restaurants.

The chance of serving in the Australian mission in Phnom Penh, Cambodia changed Geraldine's outlook of life, especially the experience of the Vietnam war that had a devastating impact on her mentally and she quit her job, returned to Sydney and worked at Chase Manhattan Bank. However, in 1996 Geraldine decided to travel back to Cambodia, doing what she thinks is best for the poor community and abandoned children. It has been her second home for the last 25 years!

Today Geraldine is 'mother' to more than 200 vulnerable children picked off the streets and live in three Centre's of Sunrise Children Village. She is the president and founder of the orphanage. It is a 'home far away from home' for these children who are provided shelter, food and education. Another 3,000 would attend classes by the day on subjects such as art, music and sport.

"I do what every parent does for their family. I give them education, opportunity, infrastructure, and security. But most of all, I give them the love that they never had," Geraldine said. "I protect them, fill them with love and respect. I do believe with all of this, they will one day be whoever they want to be." But not all are success stories. There are sorrowful ones as well.

"I once came across an abandoned baby outside a noodle store. When I returned several days later I discovered that his eyes had been harvested for the black market," she added with a tinge of sadness.

In another case, a man who was having an affair with a woman went into a fit of rage and splashed acid on both mother and child. The little girl has scarred legs and will live throughout her life feeling devastated.

Geraldine has been doing everything she can to help children and those who grew up in the centers. "Cambodia gives me all the mystery. Every day I may laugh, feel angry or even cry at times, confused or thankful to God, she continued.

Geraldine encouraged delegates to find their passion in life and support those in need of help. "Everyday there is someone out there crying for help, a community that needs your support.

Find that button to press and do what is needed."

CREATING PROBLEM SOLVING CULTURE



As Hong Kong-based business owner 14-year-old Hillary Yip took the stage at the USLS, she looked like any other teenager with a disciplined upbringing. When she spoke, it was as if a 40-year old had taken over her body. She was wise and articulate, speaking way beyond her years.

Hillary spoke about the journey of Minor Mynas – a mobile application designed for children to learn and utilise their free time in a constructive manner which she set up in 2017. The creation of Minor Mynas began when her mum sent her brother and her to summer camp in Taiwan to improve their Chinese language, after struggling with it for years.

Her moments in Taiwan was a game-changer. As they could only speak in Chinese rather than English, her brother and her learnt the language almost overnight.

When she returned to Hong Kong, she came across a kids' entrepreneurship competition and decided to give it a shot. Thinking about her time in Taiwan, she wondered if she could create an online version of that experience. Hilary learned Chinese so effortlessly by being immersed in the language. She wanted to let kids from all over the world learn and exchange their languages — and make it fun, too.

Hillary first pitched her idea at an Entrepreneurs Competition. She had rehearsed for weeks, day and night beforehand. When the big day arrived, the presentation slides crashed. However, as she had spent her weeks before hand preparing herself, she could do without her slides and she nailed it.

Minor Mynas has evolved from being a language exchange app to something more of a platform to equip kids with real life skills. In the beginning, she had spent 6 months tweaking it only for it to pivot upon receiving feedback that it was not really what people wanted or needed. She took it in her stride.

Hillary stressed the importance of creativity and collaboration in the 21st century. People need to prepare for the future by creating a problem solving culture.

Robots and automation are inevitable but being human, thinking critically and working with others is what will bring us forward. This culture shift will not happen overnight but it will progressively happen.

BOUNCE FORWARD - THE CAWTHORN STORY



SAM Cawthorn is a classic example of miracles do happen.

Cawthorn was involved in a head-on collision with a truck in 2006 and was pronounced clinically dead for several minutes before being resuscitated. He was 26 then. After being in an induced coma for six days, he recovered.

The horrific accident, however, left him with an amputated right arm and a permanent disability in his right leg. But Cawthorn is not one who is going to bounce backwards.

Today, he is one of the most in-demand global professional speakers. He is the CEO and Founder of Speakers Institute and Speakers Tribe which teaches people how to master communication for influence and is also the author of seven books and two International Best Sellers.

Ever since then, Cawthorn has been sharing his experience as a motivational speaker around the globe, inspiring others to change their ways, their behaviour and their attitude.

"I am the reason for the accident as I fell asleep at the wheels," Cawthorn told delegates, unabashedly. "Everyone experiences tough times but to me all that can be reversed into success. Things don't go according to plans in life at times. But crisis sometimes can create opportunities and we need to change our directions."

"We need to bounce forward, not backwards. Naturally, sometimes time is needed to recover and we need to pick up the pieces and move forward, not backwards," he stressed.

He believes that what we focus our attention on is what we will get in return. He then asked the delegates: "What is it that you focus on? Things that you can't do or what's possible?"

He also told delegates to choose five of their closest friends' back home and lookout for someone who is most accountable. Cawthorn then shared his experience when he told delegates that during his days in high school he had spent much of his time mingling around with friends who were a bad influence on him and that was the reason why he had to drop out of school.

He concluded by saying: "Forgiving is grace. It is important to learn to forgive someone who bears ill feelings towards you instead of being offended. Life goes on."

ACCIDENTAL WATER CRUSADER



As a six-year-old boy, Ryan Hreljac's Grade One teacher invited the class to raise money. They were given a few choices and they could raise funds for any cause that they wanted.

Ryan learned about African communities that did not have access to clean water. The villagers had to get up early in the morning to walk as far as 5km (5,000 steps) to the cleanest water source to bring home for cooking and drinking. This affected the children as they were tasked to bring water home meaning they had no chance of going to school. His teacher said that USD70 would help them build a well.

Ryan counted the number of steps to the school's fountain. It was just 10 steps. Imagine having to walk 5,000 steps! Ryan was devastated. He decided that he would raise money to build a well. He went home to his parents and asked for USD70 to buy a well. They said: "That's cute, son, but no." At dinner, he declared to his mum that if she didn't help, someone in Africa would die. Every time he drank, he thought of the well. He had to do something.

After 40 days of doing extra chores, he raised USD25. His mom found a foundation that raised funds for clean water. USD25 was not enough, they said. It takes USD2,000 to build a well. Ryan wasn't about to give up. He kept talking to more people. He kept on doing the chores around his neighbourhood even after the deadline given by his teacher passed by. He even organised a Pokémon card raffle and organised a basketball tournament.

His teacher was astounded by his perseverance and Ryan was asked to give a presentation to his class about his cause. Ryan did not want to do it. He had a stutter and presentations scared him. His mom advised him to speak from his heart. So Ryan did. After a minute's presentation that felt like an eternity, his classmates were inspired. He continued to inspire his school, community and neighbourhood, all year round.

One year later, Ryan had raised USD2,000. At aged 9, Ryan was then invited to visit Uganda to see the well that he had helped to build. A well that could serve 700-1,400 students. It was Ryan's first trip to Africa and he was welcomed by 5,000 people who had heard about the little boy who raised enough money to build a well. It was a big celebration.

"Act on the thing you are passionate about and see where it takes you," Ryan shared. "Create tangible goals. Speak to anyone who would listen. You don't have to be superhuman to make a difference."

LIVING ON ONE DOLLAR A DAY



Raised in the United States but British by origin, Chris Temple is the Co-Founder and Director of Living on One Dollar is an award-winning humanitarian, activist and filmmaker and has been recognised as Bill Gates and Angelia Jolie as among the top 100 Visionary Leaders in 2015.

Temple believes that poverty is not due to laziness or the lack of ambition and by providing micro solutions to local communities, there is every possibility that the lives of those suffering hardships can be impacted. To understand the impact of poverty Chris had to first-hand experience it. So he and three of his friends went on a two-month tormenting adventure in Guatemala where they literally lived on USD1 a day, in a rural village.

One out of six people, says Temple, live on a dollar a day and that makes it a global issue.

The experience of living in such conditions, battling hunger and parasites is the realisation that there are no easy answers. Temple and his friends produced a 56-minute documentary film from this experience and they have since taken the film on a national tour to 25 major universities.

Through this endeavour, the four raised USD1.5 million and this amount was funnelled back into the Maya village in Guatemala - a place he still visits till today. Since then, more than USD91 has been raised to empower community in need by providing education, microfinance and refugee resettlement.

In his session with USLS delegates, Temple asked questions such as Why wait? I wonder why? How can I help and What matters most?

By collaborating with many other people, be it your friends or neighbours, a number of doors begin to open to help community in need through sharing of similar vision.

He concluded his session, by saying: "It is important to understand where to place your energy as you can't take care of others if you can't take care of oneself first."

He reminded delegates when they leave the symposium to have a plan of what and how they intend to help a community. Follow your passion.

FIREFLIES LIGHT UP THE NIGHT



This is an extraordinary experience for 60 delegates who joined the local organising committee in helping conserve life on land, especially the life and habitats, of fireflies in Kampung Kuantan in the state of Selangor. Today, Kampung Kuantan is known for its magical fireflies to the locals and visitors around the world, mostly along the river.

Delegates were also given an additional task – river cleaning and planting seed in the mud as a source of food for the fireflies. Together with local boatmen, delegates, clad in life jackets, used nets to pull up rubbish and plastics that polluted the river.

After all the hard work, the rubbish collected weighed 430kg.

And the most amazing moment came at sun set. Delegates had the opportunity of watching fireflies for the first time in their lives along the great bends and curves of the river – witnessing up-close the fireflies' mesmerizing displays.

The uniqueness that lies in the fireflies is on its tail that produces blinking of light. That makes the fireflies more unique is the blinking of lights produced by the insect simultaneously each time for 3 blinks per second. Among the thousands of fireflies their lights are like a rhythm of lights.

Fireflies measure only 6mm in length. Male fireflies produce a far brighter light compared to female, to attract the attention of the female fireflies. The life spans of fireflies are from 2 till 3 months.



AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE



ACCORDING to the statistics by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), there are currently 86.5 million refugees in the world who have been displaced by war, violence and other natural calamities. In Malaysia alone, there are 175,760. And out of this 44,880 are children below the age 18.

To create a meaningful experience and memory for 80 young refugee children under the care of the UNHCR, both USLS delegates and children had a fun-filled day at SuperPark Malaysia, a friendly indoor activity park, UniKL British Malaysian Institute (BMI) campus in Gombak and at the Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT) campus in Sepang.

Many of these children had undergone difficult experiences, and using play therapy encouraged them to freely express themselves in a safe environment. They enjoyed themselves and continued to explore every nook and cranny of the park. It was an amazing lifetime experience.

“Initially I thought the park was just for the children. But when I saw all the excitement I just could not resist and jumped into it,” said an Australian delegate. “Watching the joy on their faces, it reminds us of being appreciative of the small things in life and not to take everything for granted.”

It was a lifetime experience for delegates and children of refugees when in their excitement they got into cockpits of several smaller aeroplanes in the hangar for photography sessions. The day started with a football competition and tele-match activities. And after a well-earned lunch, the children continued their activities indoor by curating fashion shows.

At the end of the day, there was one lesson learned and that is no matter what we are and where we come from... we are all the same.



FRESH COAT OF PAINT FOR SK ABDUL RAZAK



AN estimated 200 delegates were entrusted to repair and restore a debilitated SK Abdul Razak – a primary school for children of Orang Asli (Indigenous) community. Located in Kuala Kubu Baru, Selangor, the surroundings of the school needed sprucing up for the safety of everyone who could play and enjoy themselves.

Delegates arrived early and were excited to put their skills to good use – giving a new coat of paint on the ‘wailing’ walls and pillars of several structures. They had drawn murals on two walls in hope it will inspire the children.

They went about doing their work with dedication and commitment without complaining of the sweltering afternoon heat. Upon completion of their work, the indigenous community extended their gratitude by inviting delegates into their homes and exchanged stories and laughter.

Ellie Hewitt, 21, from the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, said her aim was to network with like-minded students who shared the passion of wanting to change the world for the better. “This is a good platform to share the same ideals on what we can do as youth, ” said the second-year International Development student. “Today’s event is very exciting. Beautify place with beautiful people.”

Post-graduate student Saleh F. Hassan from Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, was greatly touched by the experience in Malaysia. “I am excited to be here with all like-minded delegates as I have never been with people from the indigenous community before and I am happy to play a role in painting this school. I will never forget this adventure.”



FARAH IZZATI : MY JOURNEY IN THE USLS



Farah Izzati Othman, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, shares her experience the power of youth, international non-profits and the importance of global citizenship in the 10th USLS.

My experience was more than I ever expected. I was able to listen to incredible speakers, got to know wonderful personalities, cooperate with multiple layers of professionals such University Kuala Lumpur team, Ministry of Education dedicated staff and Humanitarian Affairs Asia delegation with the mission to give back to the community and learn a lot more what it means to be a young leader.

As the chairman of the Local Organising Committee that coordinated the progress and leads the Malaysian youth to make this symposium possible is a truly life-changing experience. You are pushed through every emotion possible, learn about yourself and the world in a way that you never thought, and above all come out of the experience affirmed and supported in your ability to be the best global citizen you can be.

I would like to thank everyone involved for making this adventure possible for the 1,000 delegates, for youth and Malaysia.

I could go on and on about what I learned and what the whole journey has been for me and I'm still trying to comprehend all of the feelings until today. But I'll say that I'm very grateful, inspired and with a different perspective on many things. I was able to learn so much about the power of youth, international non-profits, and the importance of global citizenship.

The learning journey where we organised Special Service Day for the volunteers was wonderful and brought me closer to my home country. Being able to give back to Malaysia was an enriching experience.

This journey has not only equipped me with skills, experience, and resources necessary in my journey as a 21st century leader and change-seeker, but more importantly, it allowed me to discover myself more, reminded me of the power of my dreams, and provided me with the motivation to rise above my storms and limitations. It inspired me to fight for my dreams of making a difference in this world. I may be young and small, a single drop of water in a vast ocean yet I know that I can create ripples and a possible tidal wave - the very idea instilled within me.

Other than this, what's priceless during this journey was the opportunity to meet more than a thousand like-minded individuals who shared the same drive in life as me. It was indeed a true celebration of culture and diversity. We are currently suffering global conflicts may it be political, religious, social, and cultural but these shouldn't stop us, especially the youth, to unite and establish peaceful relations with each other. We are one humanity with a common goal. It showed me that the world is a lot bigger than I think. It took me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to do something about the sufferings and pains of others. Now that I have the solution, I'm ready for wherever the wind takes me.

To all young people worldwide, find what makes your heart skip, listen to your gut feeling, and let's change the world a step at a time from where we are and hence live a meaningful life through serving others

It's almost guaranteed, that one will feel a bit of sadness and disappointment upon realising how much people are suffering around the world. Although these global problems affect each of us differently, they can only be solved collaboratively.

Leadership for change is not about taking charge of a challenging situation but rather it is about working selflessly with others. Each of us as specialists and passionate students of our disciplines has something positive to contribute to each other's cause.



Farah Izzati receiving the appreciation certificate from Mr Kim Soloman.

AN UNFORGETTABLE VOYAGE

A seven-day adventure in the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium involving 1,000 delegates from 85 countries has been an enthralling experience for 14 members of the Local Organising Committee. This is what they have to say:

MUHAMMAD AIMAN MOHD SHARIF (President UniKL Student Representative Council)



The year 2019 has been remarkable for me. Being involved in USLS taught me about diverse cultures around the world and build connections with delegates, something that I will cherish all my life. The most important aspect of the symposium is to be inspired by all speakers.

The straight-talk by Australians Sam Cawthorn and Geraldine Cox – founder of Sunrise Cambodia, enlightened us on the many issues faced globally. It inspired me on ways to discover our passion and listen to our hearts.

Cawthorn's speech moved me to tears. He lost his right arm in a road accident, kept all the painful memories behind and moved forward. That was his message to everyone. Never give up hope and move forward.

Generally, USLS allowed me to understand how to become a better person, leader and above all respect for everyone around us.

NUR AIN HAZIRAH (UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute)



IT all started with "I want to stay out of my comfort zone". Before this, I've been feeling that there's no challenge in my life. I am too comfortable in my world that makes me realise that I want to do something at least to either serve people in needs or enhance my skills and professionalism.

I was clueless what USLS is all about before the symposium. But when I got involved in it I had a better understanding of USLS – a platform where changes are made for the betterment of the world. I met student leaders who are inspirational enough to make the world a better place. I met people from the other side of the world. I also got connected to many Malaysians involved in the organisation of 10th USLS. I met hardworking interns that made a major contribution to the success of this event. I met people that are in needs, people to be heard and people that are in the missing pages. And above all, I got to know myself better.

For someone who knows nothing about the hidden story of the world, I started to listen more, see more, learn more and try to serve more. I would like to thank USLS and UniKL for giving me this opportunity and being part of the scene.



KHAIRUL FIKRI
(UniKL British Malaysian Institute)

Personally, it has been a great honour to serve in the USLS. This symposium has changed my life. When I received a called in April inviting me to be a LOC member I thought it was too good to be true. At that time, I did not know that I would meet some of the most incredible people from across the globe.

This Symposium had opened my eyes and broadened my network to every corner of the world. I'm humbled to be a part of it and I am excited to know how we plan to inspire others. Every positive change that you make for others, even if it's a small change, is a big change for an individual. Remember to be kind and to spread nothing but love. I'm also grateful I get to experience the conference and connect with delegates from many countries. To the team who held it all together, congratulations!



HAFIZUDDIN DANIEL
(Kolej Universiti Poly-Tech MARA)

From the Model UN background, I honestly never thought I will be given such an opportunity to try something new. It was a great challenge for me being in the HRH Committee. I was appointed SDG assistant PD to Jannah. And that's when I met the other committee members from UNiKL.

Working with them, I had restless nights. Sleep was like 2-3 hours a day and I believe we went through the same kind of pressure-cooker atmosphere. We did experience some kind of trepidations and problems along the way but we managed to overcome them through teamwork. It only made us stronger. It was a wonderful experience working alongside team members from UniKL and group leaders from all over the world. And now I wish I can go back to the time we had fun together.

To Humanitarian Affairs Asia, thank you for the opportunity and trust in us for us to handle SDG Services Day. I won't forget this experience. It's a new thing for me, as someone that comes from Model UN background."



NURUL JANNAH
(Kolej Universiti Poly-Tech MARA)

I just wanted to share on how I feel (even until today) about this event, USLS. As I always joined many events, activities and meet new acquaintances, gained new experiences etc, but. This event had given me a brand new experience. I almost let this golden opportunity go, they had given me a pleasant experience to work with them! Overall, I had an amazing experience working with great people, learning different cultures, languages etc. They were amazing!

LESSON FROM THE GIANT SEQUOIA TREE



Ms Janice Leong has been tirelessly working behind the scene to invite like-minded youths to participate in USLS. The Ipoh-born Regional Director of Humanitarian Affairs Asia shares her story with delegates.

GREATNESS emerges when you constantly choose to do what is right even when uncomfortable. You can contribute when we align our work to our values. Do not need to be a mirror passively reflecting the priorities of others.

We are here committed to stand together to build a world of justice, peace and harmony. We must plant the seed today for farmers later. What we plan today, we will reap tomorrow. We must structure our life around daily progress based on what matters to you.

Focus and attention work like a muscle. With a wealth of information creates a quality of attention. There will be things competing for your attention but not all are worth pursuing. Work with purpose. Many problems that we face are made by humans and will be solved by us. It will not be an easy journey as it requires focus and determination. It requires us to work as a team. It will not be an individual task. If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, work together.

Janice shares her story about the sequoia tree. Giant Sequoia trees are truly the skyscrapers of the natural world and can live up to 3,000 years. The giant sequoia's girth is what truly makes it a giant. It can grow up to a height of 300 feet. Their trunks are sometimes 35 feet across. It would take 20 adults holding hands to match its width. You would imagine that it would have a deeply rooted system to support its sheer size. Interestingly, it doesn't. How do they survive? Sequoias don't typically grow alone. They grow in groves. Even though their roots may only grow 20 feet deep, those roots spread out to cover a wide area—intertwining with other sequoias. Combined, their roots help them to withstand the winds.

Similarly, positive social change is not the responsibility of a certain group of people, institutions or countries. It's everyone's responsibility. Be selective about your projects. It's about the quantity, about the quality.

Janice conveys that we should not worry about how much you can contribute. You're never too small to make a difference. Just start taking the steps to contribute meaningfully. Start networking and surround yourself with uplifting communities. Enjoy, learn and be inspired by the process.

CLAIRE RECIPIENT OF GLOBAL YOUTH AWARD



Australian Claire Emery of Australia is the recipient of the Humanitarian Affairs Asia Global Youth Award which was presented to her during the Gala Dinner of the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

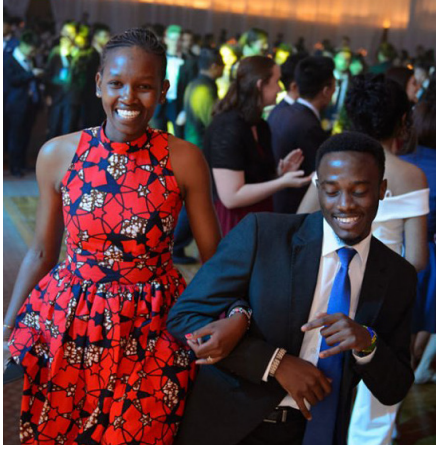
Claire is a graduate of RMIT University in Melbourne. She holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) focusing on Social Science.

"I am truly honoured to be being given this recognition and I would like to dedicate this award to my team in HAA and the Malaysian Organising Committee who have worked relentlessly throughout since we arrived here," said Claire.

"It has been a wonderful experience being together with more than 900 delegates from 85 countries, sharing our thoughts and achievements over the last seven days and I take home wonderful memories from Malaysia."

10TH USLS GALA DINNER







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Local Organising Committee of the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2019 wish to extend our greatest appreciation to the following:


- **PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**
 - **HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS ASIA**
 - **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA**
 - **MINISTRY OF ART, TOURISM AND CULTURE MALAYSIA**
 - **MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**
 - **MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**
 - **PEJABAT DATO' MENTERI BESAR SELANGOR**
 - **DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MOE)**
 - **PEJABAT JABATAN SUKARELAWAN MALAYSIA (RELA)**
 - **POLIS DI-RAJA MALAYSIA**
 - **MAJLIS AMANAH RAKYAT (MARA)**
 - **MALAYSIA CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION BUREAU**
 - **UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR**
 - **JABATAN KEMAJUAN ORANG ASLI**
 - **UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**
 - **SK TUN ABDUL RAZAK, KUALA KUBU BHARU**
 - **SK (A) BUKIT KEMANDOL, JENJAROM**
 - **SETIA CITY CONVENTION CENTRE**
 - **KAMPUNG KUANTAN FIRE FLIES**
 - **DOUBLE TREE HILTON**
 - **PULLMAN KUALA LUMPUR**
 - **ALOFT**
-



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