

APUCEN BULLETIN

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APUCEN


Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network

Special Issue on
COVID-19

TOGETHER 
WE WILL WIN
THE WAR

CORONAVIRUS

APUCEN
Asia-Pacific University-Community
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MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT OF APUCEN**

Prof. Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan
Vice-Chancellor of
Universiti Sains Malaysia

A

ssalamu'alaikum warahmatullah and Greetings from Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN).

Dear Members and Friends,

First and foremost, I hope everyone is coping well amid experiencing an unprecedented and unsettling time during this COVID-19 global pandemic.

In these difficult times, I would like to express my solidarity with all APUCEN members, and in particular with all those whose countries are going through a painful lockdown and containment period.

The state of affairs we find ourselves in and the measures enacted by the national authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pose a great challenge to our communities especially in our commitment to carry out sustainable community engagement activities during this period of time.

Having said that, for the good of our communities, we must all demonstrate intelligence, resilience, adaptability and great composure to face not only the health risk, but also the general functioning of our organisations.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all APUCEN members who had contributed articles to this special issue of APUCEN Bulletin on COVID-19. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude towards all members for the contribution and efforts in fighting COVID-19 in their countries. It is a reflection of the true spirit of APUCEN on community engagement, extending our help and services from ivory towers to the frontliners, government and public, all joining hands in time of need.

Let us continue to stand united in solidarity, communicate and share relevant information, encourage and support one another, generate powerful ideas for the benefit of all, and prepare to adapt and embrace the new normal in the post COVID-19 era.

I wish you all the strength and courage to face this troubled period, and InshaaAllah **Together We Will Win This War, Together We Will Make A Better Tomorrow!** ■





Kyoto University
of Foreign Studies

THE CHALLENGE OF MOVING THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT ONLINE AT KUFS

by Kevin Ramsden

T

he lives of millions of people around the world have been turned upside down in the past three months by the “invisible enemy” that is the corona virus, COVID-19. This insidious disease has been quite indiscriminate in its choice of victims, with many of the worst outbreaks and deaths occurring throughout the developed world, striking down people of all ages, ethnicities and social class. However, though many of the wealthiest nations, such as the UK and the U.S, have seen surges in infections, Japan has, so far, remained relatively unscathed in comparison. At the time of writing (16 April 2020), according to the WHO there are just over 8,000 confirmed cases and 146 virus-related deaths, but testing activity has been relatively low-key and fears of a surge in infections has prompted the government to announce emergency declarations for seven of the 49 prefectures in Japan. This, however, does not include Kyoto where, of course, KUFS is located. It does include the neighboring prefectures of Osaka and Hyogo though, and many KUFS students travel from these areas to our campus on a daily basis. Based on this, and in line with government guidelines, KUFS has now closed its campus to all students and non-essential staff and visitors for the foreseeable future. In addition, a number of international students from China, Korea and other Asian countries have either been denied entry visas or have failed to enter before the country shut down its borders.

Under these difficult circumstances, a whole new approach has had to be taken to safeguard both the physical and mental health of all involved at KUFS, while at the same time maintaining



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communication with students both in Japan and overseas. In order to do this and ensure continued access to quality education, KUFS has taken the decision to shift academic activity fully online for the entire Spring semester from May to August. This is the first time for the university to attempt such an undertaking, and it has required a great deal of collaboration and cooperation among the various departments, the faculty and student body. Fortunately, we already have a very good Learning Management System (LMS) in place called 'Manaba', which allows us to effect this transition a little more smoothly, and of course there are a number of online tools that are at our disposal to supplement this.

Despite the obvious benefits of this technological support, however, many feel they are no real replacement for the more traditional aspects of university life. The absence of face-to-face teaching and learning, on-campus extra-curricular activities such as NGO work, clubs, circles, and sports teams, and just simple interaction with friends, classmates and colleagues, is something everyone will find difficult to get used to. For KUFS students, the interruption to overseas programs (all cancelled for 2020) is particularly difficult, and for the students of the Faculty of Global Engagement in particular, the cancellation of all the Community Engagement Programs for 2020 means they cannot move on to the practical side of their studies as they envisaged, and must consider other ways to feed their motivation. Regardless of this, I do believe through adversity there sometimes emerges opportunity, and I think this is a time when KUFS as an institution can start to envisage what more it might be able to do, through new community engagement initiatives, to address the inevitable increase in needs of the less fortunate, domestic and internationally, once this terrible pandemic has taken its toll. ■

学生の入構禁止について
4月8日(水)～5月6日(水)の期間中
学内への入構を全面的に禁止します。

本学



CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY

RELIEF MEASURES ON FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

by Niwes Nantachit

C

hiang Mai University (CMU) has joined hands with various stakeholders and partners to fight against Covid-19, through several approaches for both the university, neighbouring and the front liner communities.

Social Support Measures

CMU has intensively produced MASK-4-ALL nano facemasks (PM 2.5 type) for university students, staff and medical staff of Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, Sanpatong Hospital, Sansai Hospital, Nakhonping Hospital, Mae Wang Hospital, and Doi Tao Hospital. Informative and educational materials on Covid-19 had been published and shared with the public during community visits to schools and local communities by the Faculty of Medicine, as well as establishing Hotline Call Centre and Online QA Platform (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Nursing). Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Public Health also established the system on risk assessment for Covid-19 infection. CMU worked closely with Chiang Mai Public Health Director to establish action plan on medical and public health emergencies with overall Chiang Mai province operational plans.

The Biomedical Engineering Institute of CMU had produce BMEi Face Shields for protection against aerosol and droplets dispersion by utilizing the 3D printing technology for medical staff at hospitals in Chiang Mai province, besides producing DIY face masks. The Faculty of Engineering of CMU has developed and provided consultation on engineering for supporting Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital through establishing multilateral network of voluntary engineers with professors and alumni who are professional engineers to provide free consultation, co-design, and renovate building spaces and ventilation system for controlling the spread of Covid-19 or positive/negative pressured room system, creating robots for delivery of food, medication and deliverables to infected patients within Covid-19 hospitalization unit, producing Swap Guard, an acrylic sheet, for infected patients to wear for preventing their droplets from cough and sneeze while collecting samples in their nostril for lab tests, to name a few initiatives.



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Support Measures for Academic and Operational Staff

Besides providing social support measures, CMU also provides support measures for academic and operational staff through various initiatives such as providing free Zoom Pro subscriptions, enforcing and supporting Work From Home Policy and provide online communication channels via online One Stop Service System. In addition, CMU also provides health insurance coverage for Covid-19 for university staff (some faculties), ozone disinfection operations in meeting rooms and offices, Online Food Selected Shop System called “CMU Carelicious” to select tasty and healthy food delivery services (by Faculty of Agriculture and College of Art, Media and Technology).

Support Measures for Students

Not forgetting the welfare of the students, CMU has established CMU Fund to support students who are affected from Covid-19 under the name “Emergency Relief Fund for Impacted Students from the Natural and Public Disasters”, and extended installment payment deadlines tuition and university housing fees.

University housing was also been provided for students who do not wish to return to their hometown. CMU has prepared separate university housing for students who were in contact with Covid-19 infected patients and needed to commit to the 14-day quarantine measure, one student per room only, with appropriate sanitary and disinfection standards.

For the benefits of the students, CMU has established online services for CMU Library with informative FAQ video instructions, live messenger, book lending-returning record tracking system, and online book reservation. In addition, CMU has provided online One Stop Service platforms via Line Official Account and Facebook Page for centralized communication by the Information Technology Service Center. ■



UPM INITIATIVE TO DEAL WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by Mansor Abu Talib



U

PM is one of the public universities that activate all the expertise and resources in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic presently. These contributions include the niche area by the respective faculties at UPM in terms of innovations, services and product development to the target community such as front liners, hospitals and other stakeholders.

The UPM Teaching Hospital (HPUPM), which began operations in February 2020, has contributed significantly in the form of providing additional diagnostic laboratory facilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Ministry of Higher Education to support the Ministry of Health Malaysia to increase COVID-19 screening capacity. HPUPM is ready to receive the sample and will issue the results within 48 hours after receiving the sample. The facility is required to meet the requirements of 14,000 tests daily in cooperation with a special task force from other public universities.

In terms of testing and diagnosis, the Faculty of Science, UPM has also developed the RT-PCR Alternative Diagnose based on nanomaterial and electrochemical biosensor. It is a fast result and low cost which can hopefully yield a higher number of samples.

Under the innovation component "Ready-to-Use", UPM has also produced 3D Face Shield through the involvement of Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Design and Architecture, in collaboration with Longe Medikal Sdn. Bhd – Putra Science Park (PSP). Up to 285 units of face shield can be produced daily at the cost of RM 1.50 – RM 2.50 per unit. Although the contribution may look small, yet the effort of the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in UPM have helped to produce a boot cover for the front liners.

Other than that, the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in UPM



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Bangun lima robot bantu proses nyah kuman

Produk inovasi sedang dalam proses pembangunan

Oleh Mohd Khairul Anam Md Khairudin khairul.anam@upm.edu.my

Serdang: Sekumpulan pakar robotik dari MAMKAL Robotik, Fakulti Kejuruteraan, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) memulakan pembangunan lima robot untuk proses nyah kuman daripada risiko COVID-19.

Sejak projek itu, Prof Madya Dr Wan Zula Wan Hassan dari Jabatan Kejuruteraan Elektrik dan Elektronik, Fakulti Kejuruteraan UPM berkata, dalam keadaan pandemik COVID-19, robot ini amat diperlukan untuk kegunaan pelbagai unit Pasukan Tindakan Keselamatan bagi mengatasi jangkitan kepada petugas barisan hadapan.

Beliau berkata, untuk fasa kedua, pihak mereka juga boleh menawarkan perkhidmatan nyah kuman, jika serdadu dan staf hospital oleh robot UPM kepada hospital awam berdekatan sekiranya terdapat pencemaran dan data daripada

pihak luar yang berminat.

"Untuk operasi fasa pertama, lima buah robot yang siap ini akan digunakan di kawasan kampus seperti bilik dan dewan kuliah, dewan, kolej perubatan UPM dan kawasan berisiko lain, pejabat, Hospital Pengajian yang menjadi kekhawatiran yang menjadi kekhawatiran."

"Kami hadapi kekurangan bajet untuk projek pembangunan robot ini. Sekiranya ada pihak luar yang berminat untuk membuat projek, kami mahu taraf projek penyediaan robot ini ke peringkat litikali robot ini ke peringkat mengahli-ahlikan, kata Dr Wan Zula.



Kumpulan terbahari terdiri daripada Prof Madya Dr Suhaili rigoda, Prof Madya Dr Norhafiz Azis, Dr Mohd Nazim Mohd Azis, Dr Muhammad Farhan Mustafa, Muhammad Farhan Shafiqul Haq, Muhammad Hayman Shafiqul Haq, Alireza Ahmadi dan Hassan Mousa Qasim Alawwad.

Dr Wan Zula menjelaskan, pihaknya turut menargetkan pembaharuan dan perkhidmatan pembinaan robot hasil kolaborasi dengan Ketua Institut Teknologi Enterpris, Mohd Hasni Mohd Sulek iaitu sebuah syarikat alumni UPM.

Sementara itu, Dekan Fakulti Kejuruteraan UPM, Prof Ir Dr Nor Kamarulhuda, berkata robot-robot tersebut juga diubah suai dari



pada robot sedia ada yang telah digunakan dalam satu pertunjukan robot antara universiti-niti yang diadakan di (URCC2019) yang diadakan di (Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) pada September tahun lalu.

"Pengubahsuaian ini membolehkan penambahan sistem nyah kuman yang perlu dipasang ke pada robot berkenaan.

"Dalam kesediaan PKPP (perintah kawalan pergerakan) saya dituntut, kumpulan mereka berhasrat membina peralatan an silar menggunakan, membina robot, bagaimanapun mereka akan cuba mereka bentuk sistem nyah kuman dengan peralatan sedia ada di makmal dan pembelian peralatan penting dari Lazada atau Shopee," katanya.

Dr Wan Zula sedang melakukan modifikasi robot di laman Fakulti Kejuruteraan UPM.

took the initiative to produce hand sanitizing products by using aloe vera gel formulation to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 among the community. This hand sanitizer also contains natural soluble alcohol and natural essential oils such as lavender, lemon, natural oil blend, peppermint and tea tree oil that have the potential to fight against bacteria and germs and to prevent infection.

UPM has also initiated the Development and Testing Innovation Products in addressing issues and needs during the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Faculty of Engineering UPM has developed the Remote Mobile Robot for Spray Disinfectant and Service Robot based on the current needs. The robots were modified with addition of disinfectant system installed and it would be necessary for the use of various disinfectant procedures in hospitals.

Furthermore, to improve and facilitate the level of hygiene and sanitation for front liners, three other faculties has developed a sanitizing facility that health workers could use in their current situation. The Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology invented the Disinfectant Tunnel with automatic Hand Sanitizer and Temperature Screening. The system will automatically sanitize without direct contact and temperature in check by the infrared sensor.

One the other hand, the Faculty of Engineering has developed a Walk-Thru Sanitizing Machine with Photovoltaic DC Generator which operates automatically using a voice sensor. The machine can also easily check body temperature which saves time and maintain social distancing with other users. This faculty also innovates the rapid and safe for disinfectant the personal protective equipment (PPE) used by the health care workers known as the Incubator Box, whereas the innovation of Graphene Gloves by the Faculty of Science can improve users safety against microorganism.

Hence, UPM will continue and be committed to helping the Malaysian government through the university's resources, expertise, and facilities. Our contribution are always in line with the UPM's motto, which is "WITH KNOWLEDGE WE SERVE". Hopefully these innovations and initiatives will be able to support and help the government and the people in Malaysia to help the country to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic until the end.





NUST

Defining futures

ACADEMICS FIGHTING
PANDEMICS AT NUST PAKISTAN

DEVELOPES MULTIPLE TECHNOLOGIES & PRODUCTS TO COMBAT COVID-19

by *Maheen Mumtaz*



T

he outbreak of COVID 19, caused by Novel Coronavirus, has forced Governments, scientists and medical professionals the world over, to contemplate how to counter this unanticipated and deadly challenge facing the world. In Pakistan, National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) has been going the extra mile to combat this pandemic through indigenously developed technologies and products as well as intellectual input and support to the Government. NUST's undertakings in the wake of COVID-19 are delineated as follows:

1. NUST scientists have indigenously established robust, target-sensitive and cost-effective Coronavirus Testing Kits for the detection of the virus. The kits have been validated through laboratory trials over samples provided by Pakistan's National Institute of Health (NIH) and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), and verified for precision against kits provided by Bio Tech, China. The kits are currently under registration process with Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) – Pakistan's equivalent of FDA – for largescale supply to hospitals, pathology labs and quarantine camps. Industry is being engaged for mass production under license, after formal approvals come through.
2. In another ground-breaking scientific discovery, scientists at NUST have sequenced the complete genome of SARS-CoV2; this will open up new avenues in tracing the evolutionary origin of SARS-CoV2 that infected Pakistani patients, and will be useful in comparative genome analysis as well as in vaccine development.
3. Recognising the need to adopt preventive measures as the world sails through uncharted waters of COVID-19, NUST has indigenously developed unmanned ground vehicles, and assembled and deployed aerial spray units retrofitted for fighting the virus's outbreak by disinfecting critically important surroundings and locations, while lowering the risk of exposure for human operators.



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4. The National Centre of Robotics & Automation (NCRA) at NUST has developed a bilingual (English and Pakistan's national language Urdu) screening app (the world's first Urdu app for COVID-19 screening), enabling citizens to self-screen for COVID-19. The app, named COVID CHECK, was used by thousands of people in several countries, including US, UK, UAE and Saudi Arabia, within the first 2 days of its beta rollout on March 23, 2020. Within 3 weeks the app's usage spread to 27 countries, with over 50,000 screenings. The app is available at <http://ncra.org.pk/covid/>
5. In accordance with WHO and Center for Control Disease (CDC) USA Revised Guidelines, issued in March 2020, that only Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers (ABHS) with minimum additives are effective against Coronavirus, NUST has developed high-quality hand sanitizers for microbial control – the formula adheres to post-COVID-19 outbreak international guidelines and has been certified for efficacy by some of the most credible laboratories in Pakistan. The sanitizer is being mass produced, under license, by a leading pharmaceutical company Pharmatec Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, after having been authorised by DRAP – Pakistan's equivalent of FDA. NUST has also formulated a multipurpose disinfectant, for equipment, surfaces and skin, which ensures maximum protection against a diverse spectrum of viruses and bacteria. NUST's disinfectant is prepared according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) USA Revised Guidelines.
6. In view of the mounting concern vis-à-vis availability of ventilators to cater for critical patients battling with the disease, scientists and Biomedical engineers at NUST have embarked on development of "Low Cost Portable Ventilation Devices" which are in accordance with DRAP standards. With concerted efforts of the project team, the project is progressing at a fast pace.
7. Upcoming solutions include a software framework, which is being developed by NUST scientists, in collaboration with Czech Tech University, Czech Republic, and Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia. This software framework will forecast human density at specified locations, predicting how densely populated locations like pharmacies, hospitals, super markets etc., will be at certain times, and thereby estimating transmission and exposure risks. It will be a handy tool for people to protect themselves against regular flu and other epidemics. ■



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

SHIELDING OUR HEROES

COVID-19: THE UNSEEN ENEMY

by Marlin Marissa Malek & Suwannit Chareen Chit

The Covid-19 pandemic caught us off guard. At this point of writing, Covid-19 is spreading like a wildfire, infecting 1.4 million people from 209 countries and territories around the world. Sadly, many have succumbed to this attack by an unseen enemy.

The Malaysian Government announced the Movement Control Order on March 18, 2020. In a flash, offices and educational institutions were ordered to close, businesses shuttered, and social and sporting events postponed or cancelled indefinitely. In some areas, a complete lockdown is implemented. Whether a movement control or lockdown, this pandemic has completely changed the way we live, work and play.

Due to the rising number of infections, doctors are left short-handed. Hospitals face a battle with time, where equipment, supplies, and trained staff members are depleting daily. Pictures of weary medical practitioners and other frontline personnel (frontliners) begging us to stay at home to break the chain of infection is nothing short of a heartbreak.

Humanity in times of crisis.

In a concerted effort, a group of active Makers (a Maker is a person who indulges in technology-based DIY activities which include 3D-printing, robotics, electronics and traditional metal- and woodworking) in Kedah and Perlis, led by Muhamad Kamalrul Zaman Bin Zainol 3D-printed the frame used for face shields to address the shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

“We print and distribute these frames to hospitals, community health clinics and security personnel. In times of crisis such as this, our main focus is humanity and supplying the face shields to the frontliners in the northern region of Malaysia is utmost priority”, said Muhamad Kamalrul who is a chemist.

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To date, more than 1800 pieces have been printed and distributed to the relevant agencies. Muhamad Kamalrul adds that the printing will go on as long as Covid-19 spreads.

“Each printer takes between 35 and 45 minutes to print two pieces of frame”, said Ahmad Hanis Mohd Shabli, from MCMC-UUM MakerSpace Labotatory. He added the time taken to print the frames relies on the design of the frame. The design of the frames is continuously improved and shared with all Makers in Malaysia via their Facebook page.

According to Ahmad Hanis, the biggest challenge faced by these Makers is the fight against time. “Demands are increasing while the filament used to print the frames is depleting. Furthermore, we need to closely monitor the printing process and other parameter such as temperature at all times to ensure the frames are printed properly”, he said.

While some are confined in their workspaces, Muhamad Zaim Bin Kassim chose to deliver the completed face shields to hospitals, community health clinics and other frontliners when he is not printing the frames. Muhamad Zaim, a Physics teacher in Kubang Pasu MARA Junior Science College stated that the face shields need to be delivered at a timely manner as the shields are needed for patient screening and used in operation theatres.

“Printing these shields is by no means an easy task. My heartfelt thanks go to all the 14 members of 3D Printing Kedah Perlis who work tirelessly to print, deliver and record request from the frontliners”, said Muhamad Kamalrul in thanking his team-members.

Shielding Our Heroes

The frontliners - they have worked around the clock. They braced themselves against the deadly Covid-19 virus. They sacrificed the precious times for your loved ones to care for the lives of others.

In times of darkness, we have nothing but a huge thank you to all doctors, nurses, medical personnel, security forces and all who have tirelessly worked to flatten the curve and make Malaysia free of Covid-19. Thank you to 3D Printing Kedah Perlis for shielding our heroes. ■

#stayathome
#staysafe
#impactfulconnections



ANDALAS UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IN FACING COVID-19

by Feri Arius

Indonesia is one of the countries affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first case of Covid-19 infection in Indonesia was found on the 2nd March 2020. Until April 16, 2020, a total of 5,516 people were infected with the Covid-19 virus in Indonesia, of which 496 people died.

To deal with the invasion of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Government of Indonesia has established a Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). This PSBB was made based on Law# 24 (Year 2007) concerning Disaster Management and Law# 6 (Year 2018) on Health Quarantine. The implementation of large-scale social restrictions includes:

- a. school and workplace entertainment;
- b. restrictions on religious activities;

- c. restrictions on activities in public places or facilities;
- d. restrictions on social and cultural activities;
- e. restrictions on modes of transportation; and
- f. restrictions on other activities specifically related to defence and security aspects.

The regulations made by the Government of Indonesia differ from the lockdown method, where people are not allowed to go out of the house and gather, while all transportation and office activities, schools, and worship will be deactivated. The PSBB method still allows people to leave the house but is limited not to gather in large numbers, maintain social distancing, and wear masks.

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To help the community in dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic, Andalas University with financial support from the Andalas University Alumni Association (Alumni UNAND Organization) had conducted several activities such as:

1. Making hand sanitizers in the Agricultural Technology laboratory and Pharmacy laboratory,
2. Providing and distributing hand sanitizers to the public,
3. Provide online education to the public about Covid-19,
4. Making Andalas University Hospital a Covid-19 test and treatment centre for infected people,
5. Making hand wash liquid and place the hand wash liquid in places visited by the public such as mosques, markets, and others,
6. Providing food aid to low-income community,
7. Make a scientific study of the spread of Covid-19 and its impact in West Sumatra Province and submit it to the local government to be a reference in making decisions,
8. Conducting "Kuliah Kerja Nyata" (KKN) / Service Learning which helps the government and the community in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. ■





NAVIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE USM WAY

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has taken the world by storm with over 4.1 million cases confirmed worldwide and over 281,000 deaths as of this writing. Most organisations and institutions, if not all, have reorganised the way they work during this difficult period. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) did the same. Our top priority was to safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of our community, on and off campus. We ensured that our operations continued on all fronts. Although we were operating remotely, we were very well-connected. A 24-hour command centre, named as USM COVID-19 Nerve Centre, was set up to help strategise, monitor updates in real-time and coordinate all matters related to COVID-19 across the main campus and all the branch campuses. Upon receiving the latest updates from the respective Ministries, we implemented measures not only in safeguarding our students and staff but also to minimize disruption as we aimed to continuously provide all necessary services to our industry partners. We have put measures in place thus our talents were kept safe, face-to-face activities including meetings and travelling were minimized, and a good support system was readily available.

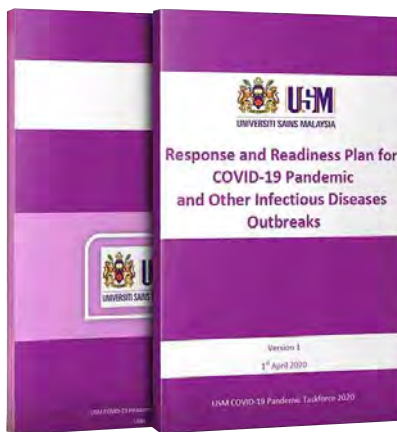
Teaching and learning continued, nonetheless, leveraging existing online platforms and technologies (thanks to some assistance provided by several major telecommunication providers) to ensure students get the best learning experience even for those who were back in their hometowns. The outcome has been very encouraging indeed, for out of the 1,387 papers offered for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Semester 2, only 11 papers will have conventional final exam component, while 94% (or 1,305 papers) have been converted to 100% coursework. One could say that the pandemic situation has thrust and fast-tracked the university into implementing online learning and assessment.

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As the COVID-19 situation continued to change rapidly, there was a pressing need for data-driven intelligence and decision making for USM. The Management has set up a number of task forces based on their expertise in addressing this challenge. As a result, several reports and documentations were readied and published, among them were the Response and Readiness Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Infectious Diseases Outbreaks; SOPs for Post-MCO Return to the Campus in June (both for staff and students); USM Financial Scenarios and Policy Responses for the COVID-19 Era; and Guidelines on Working From Home and Working in the Office Post-MCO.



As much as we are thankful to the government for channelling funds to bear the cost of food for the students staying on campus throughout the MCO, we are also very grateful to the University staff, students, alumni members, individuals, corporate bodies, various organisations, NGOs, etc. who have contributed generously to the USM COVID-19 Fund. Since this special Fund was launched in mid-March, contributions have been pouring in and the monies collected have been put into good use to supplement the cost of food and basic necessities of the students and front liners, affected staff members as well as in upgrading the essential medical facilities and procurement of medical/healthcare equipment related to COVID-19. We are also appreciative of the kind gestures and big-heartedness of all the USM staff who have agreed to contribute to the Fund through voluntary salary deductions for three consecutive months.



In the midst of all these happenings, we received some good news in April that USM was ranked #65 in the world (2nd in ASEAN and 8th in Asia), and maintained its position as the top university in Malaysia in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020, which assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This reminded us of the importance of creating impact to society at large and that all of us can be an agent of change to uplift the socio-economic status of the society and also to bring equality to the people of the world.

Finally, a big appreciation to all our medical and non-medical front liners, our supporting staff and student volunteers who have been instrumental since day one in dealing with the situation the best that they can.

All campus community members are requested to be patient throughout this moment of distress and to maintain togetherness in facing this outbreak.

Stay Safe! Together We Will Nail This!





100 INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (INITIATIVES, EFFORTS & SUCCESS STORIES/ACHIEVEMENTS)

Ver.1 4/5/2020

USM NERVE CENTRE

A dedicated centre designed for planning, coordinating, operating and monitoring the current state of affairs in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) for USM.

PRIMARY FUNCTION
Used as a venue for communications, daily operations, holding brainstorming sessions, discussions, showcasing and hosting all resources/references related to COVID-19.

DAILY DATA DOCUMENTATION AND UPDATE
Manages the daily data documentation of university staff on duty during COVID-19 as well as local and international students who are staying in the hastily (de)assigned on campus and those staying outside the campus (PETAS) and surrounding neighbourhoods. This includes keeping track of the students' movement in and out of campus.

RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING CONTRIBUTIONS
Receives contributions (PPEs, hand sanitizers, dry foodstuff, daily essential items, etc.) from various parties such as government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), individuals, alumni, staff and students, and distributes these items to the targeted groups (students and B40 staff) based on their needs.

RECEIVING AND RECORDING PHONE CALLS
Receives and records all incoming calls pertaining to COVID-19 daily in the Nerve Centre Incoming Call Form.



MPP 'Tilawah' Challenge (Instagram Edition).
Organised by the Student Representatives' Council (MPP), this is a challenge to record the reading (tilawah) of the Al Quran and to send it to the Instagram app to gain LIKES.



COVID-19 Contribution Fund
To address the welfare of students who are residing on and off campus as well as the needs of the frontline staff and for equipping and upgrading the medical facilities.



Allocation of special budget for the provision of meals for students during MCO.



Dr@USM Hotline.
Staff and students can contact the Hotline at 09-7873521 before coming to the clinic for an appointment or to 'walk-in'. The Medical Officer will assess on whether there is a need to come/continue medication/consultation and for other services.



Stay at USM X MCO
This 5-minute video competition is a challenge for students to create a short video while in MCO at the USM campus (a time frame of 14 days is given).



USM Alumni COVID-19 Fund.
Initiated by USM alumni to assist the alma mater during MCO.



Means of continuation of medication via online confirmation test.
Patients only need to contact the nearest clinic and the Medical Officer would prepare an online continuation for medication via 'Prescription Online System' (POLS).



Screening station for 'Severe Acute'.
Screening of symptomatic patients was carried out at the designated Green Zone of the Hospital USM Emergency and Trauma Department.



Face Shield Heroes
10,000 face shields (FaceshieldHEROES) were produced by 110 USM students who volunteered, to be contributed to the frontliners around Penang, Kedah and Perak.



Moratorium on repayment for vehicle and computer loans from April until June 2020 for USM staff.



Social distancing.
Setting a gap of one (1) metre while waiting at the pharmacy, clinic, while using the lift and at other places.



Specified wards for 'Severe Acute Respiratory Disease' (SARD).
Wards have been prepared for COVID-19 positive patients to help support the need and lessen the burden of the Ministry of Health (MOH) hospitals.



Video competition.
#StayATUSM is a challenge to use a videography-oriented app for students to display their talents while being under MCO on campus.



Exemption from monthly rental and utility payments for March and April to the cafeteria/stall operators at Desasiswa.



Preparation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
Done by the Epidemiology and Infection Control Unit (UKJEH) at Hospital USM.



Body temperature checks at the entrance.
The Security Department will check body temperature of each campus community member upon entering the campus grounds.



Postgraduate student initiative.
Prepared free meals from his own business for the USM frontliners and students.



Proposal of special allowances for the medical and non-medical frontliners.



Hospital USM COVID-19 Outbreak Management Fund.
Collection to be utilised for preparation of meals to frontliners, purchase of disposable items, purchase of other medical essentials for the treatment and care of patients.



No visitors are allowed in the hospital wards.
Except for emergency cases, cases involving children and cases requiring assistance.





100 INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (INITIATIVES, EFFORTS & SUCCESS STORIES/ACHIEVEMENTS)

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21
No one is allowed to be accompanied on clinic visits. Except for emergency cases, cases involving children and cases requiring assistance.



28
Division of Industry and Community Network (BJIM).
Collaborated with the industry to produce intubation boxes for anaesthetists.



35
Madaidurrahman Kit.
Distribution of Madaidurrahman Kit (each kit containing basic essentials such as rice, cooking oil, sugar, salt, soya sauce, etc.) to B40 staff and students staying outside the campus through USM Nerve Centre and Islamic Centre.



42
Fundraising by USM Doctor Alumni Association (PADU) to meet the demand of hospital respiratory aid and support equipment nationwide.



22
Postponement of surgeries and appointments.
Applied to all elective surgical cases and appointments for non-emergency follow-up treatments.



29
USM collective efforts.
Various schools and centres collectively produce 3,000 face shields using 3D-printers, to be distributed to the frontliners.



36
Launching of Special Fund 'Covid-19 Donation Drive'.
A gift from alumni to students.



43
Staff contribution through voluntary salary deduction.
Staff donated voluntarily to the USM COVID-19 Fund via monthly salary deductions for 3 months (April, May and June 2020).



23
COVID-19 Counselling Hotline.
The Early Intervention Psychology Team (EPT) can be contacted for counselling sessions at 09-7671188 or email: epa.usm2020@gmail.com



30
Team from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, School of Mechanical Engineering and industry partners.
Produced ventilators known as Automated Assisted Breathing Unit for hospital usage.



37
Alumni Engagement.
Through short videos sharing session on "What are your home activities during MCO".



44
Revised/New academic calendar for Semester 2, 2019/2020.
Rescheduling of academic timetable to accommodate online teaching and learning during MCO for undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as other academic related matters.



24
COVID-19 Test Laboratory.
The Medical Microbiology and Parasitology Lab at Hospital USM was selected among the 10 labs managed by a public university in the country to offer testing services for COVID-19.



31
Introduction to Brain-Breaks (BB).
Access made by USM researcher, Dr Gary Kuan to assist in reducing stress during the MCO.



38
Video Sharing Session.
Together with "Outstanding Alumni" sharing their experiences on working from home.



45
Survey on readiness of remote learning among students.
To ensure all students can participate in remote learning from their homes.



25
COVID-19 Screening Test.
Collaborated with Klinik Primer Cherang (USM Panel Clinic) and KPJ Hospital to conduct screening tests for COVID-19.



32
ISOPOD produced by School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
To prevent the health frontliners from being infected by COVID-19 during the process of aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs).



39
Online Counselling Service.
To assist staff in cases of depression and stress during MCO through the School of Educational Studies and Counselling Unit.



46
Provided guidelines for online assessment.
USM Online Assessment Guidelines for Remote Teaching and Guidelines on Attendance.



26
School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Formulated and produced kaffir lime hand sanitizers for the usage of the campus community as well as for our local Royal Malaysia Police, Civil Defence Department, General Hospital Penang and health clinics around Penang.



33
Isolated Cubicle Project produced by School of Mechanical Engineering.
To prepare for screening activities, checks, isolation and sample collection, providing suitable conditions for air circulation which would reduce the risks of infection of COVID-19.



40
Basic food packs to frontliners as token of appreciation for support given and sacrifices made.
Madaidurrahman Kits were handed out to the frontliners from the Royal Malaysia Police and RELA members.



47
Conducted training sessions for academic staff.
To provide exposure / teaching / reinforcement in various aspects so that academics are better prepared to implement teaching remotely.



27
School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
Designed and produced Low-Cost Automatic Disinfecting Tunnel which also attracted the interest from the Royal Malaysia Police and several other government agencies.



34
Contribution of funding and sharing of expertise.
Implemented various initiatives with a fund of RM122,800 involving 12 activities/projects to address the impact of COVID-19.



41
Distribution of PPEs made by campus staff and alumni to the frontline staff and workers.



48
Established an integrated health care telephone consultancy service in USM.
For the Main Campus, Engineering Campus, IPPT, Health Campus and USM Hospital.



100 INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (INITIATIVES, EFFORTS & SUCCESS STORIES/ACHIEVEMENTS)

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49
Conducted daily COVID-19 screening for at-risk campus community members.



56
SOP for management of students' accommodation and placement on campus.



63
Reading of Al-Quran verses sessions during Ramadan.



70
Establishing the IPPT COVID-19 Laboratory which was listed by the Health Ministry as one of the labs that can run COVID-19 diagnostic test using the 'quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction' technique.



50
Disinfection at high-risk locations in the campus. Being carried out with the assist from the Occupational Safety and Health Unit (UKKP) and Pusat Sejahtera personal.



57
Making available food coupons for students staying on campus. Food coupons amounting to RM15 a day were distributed to more than 3,500 USM students staying on campus including PETAS students from March 21 until the end of April 2020.



64
Preparation of a special document entitled 'Response and Readiness Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Infectious Diseases Outbreaks'.



71
Usage of the Al-Azhari Hall at IPPT Sains@Bertam by Kepala Batas Hospital to hold a blood donation drive. The IPPT Transfusion Medical Unit also assisted the hospital in this activity.



51
Invited the Penang District Health Officer to give a special talk specially for USM frontliners concerning COVID-19.



58
Cooperation with cafeteria vendors. F&B outlets and mini marts/convenience shops would continue to operate in the cafeteria of each desasiswa during the MCO period.



65
Health and Safety Directives. To all campus residents beginning March 13, 2020 (pre-MCO).



72
Cooperation between IPPT and NGOs in producing PPEs to be supplied to nearby hospitals.



52
Provision of hand sanitizers at all strategic places.



59
Food Bank assistance and other donations (dry food and basic essentials) from external parties and alumni to students.



66
COVID-19: Social Responsibility. The latest Prevention and Development Policy at the campus level (periodically, during MCO).



73
Launching of a special PPE contribution fund. To collect donations for the production of PPEs, coordinated by the IPPT Nursing Staff Club.



53
Health screening by Security Department personnel. Health screenings are carried out on all staff, students and outsiders at the university entrance throughout the MCO.



60
Provided transportation for students on standby basis and for any emergency.



67
Administrative guidelines. On how to best manage COVID-19 at the campus level (periodically, during MCO).



74
Dispensing of follow-up medicine/drugs to patients at specially renovated drive through counters. This is an initiative by the IPPT Outpatient Pharmacy Unit, with the aim of reducing face-to-face meeting between patients and pharmacists at the dispensing counter.



54
Cooperated with the police to conduct coordinated patrols on campus ground from time to time throughout the MCO.



61
Coordination of activities with students in dormitories through USM Students Representative Council (MPP).



68
Scenario planning in stages. Encompassing various aspects pertaining to COVID-19 (periodically, post-MCO).



75
USM Issuing official statements to keep USM-KLE IMP students and their parents informed on the current state and development of the COVID-19 situation on campus, in Belgaum Karnataka and surrounding areas during the lockdown in India.



55
SOP for students' movement in and out of campus. Students would need to fill up a permission form at the Nerve Centre to move in and out of campus, and valid cases would be provided a provisional pass.



62
Livestreaming on Facebook of USM Islamic Centre programme "Pelita Sayyidatul Ayyam" every Friday during Ramadan.



69
Written statements and announcements in USM Facebook, website and email from the Vice-Chancellor. Addressing various issues, development and the way forward to the campus communities (pre-, during, post-MCO).



76
Continuous monitoring by the KLE Society and student representatives and daily reporting back to USM on the welfare and wellbeing of students on campus.



100 INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (INITIATIVES, EFFORTS & SUCCESS STORIES/ACHIEVEMENTS)

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77
Launching of a website dedicated to information about COVID-19.
Contains all the important information regarding COVID-19 including the latest developments and actions taken by USM in addressing the pandemic.



83
Provision of daily meals.
Managed by the KLE Society (and borne by USM) in partnership with local hotels to supply daily meals for students during the lockdown in India.



89
USM community welcomed its youngest member on campus.
Awozola Oluwasem, a Nigerian PhD student and his wife were the proud parents of their newborn baby girl.



95
Promotion of an article "A Critical Appraisal of COVID-19 in Malaysia and Beyond."
Published in the Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (M.J.M.S), USM.



78
'Multipoint' monitoring of ongoing situation in India.
Involving Wisma Putra, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysian Government Agencies, Sponsors, Consulate-Generals of Malaysia in India, and so forth to facilitate the delivery of assistance and in making strategic decisions with regards to the students' safety and wellbeing in USM-KLE.



84
Collaboration between USM and telecommunication network service providers (telco).
The university has sought partnership with several major telco providers (namely YTL Foundation, TM/Unifi and Maxis) to provide students with greater access to internet connectivity for remote learning.



90
USM Registrar's online session with the support staff.
The Registrar held an online session with the support staff to find out how they were doing during the MCO.



96
USM Press E-Book Promotion Fair exclusively at e-sentral.com



79
Dedicated emergency support and contact.
Including a direct link to the USM Nerve Centre at USM Main Campus that monitors the overall COVID-19 crisis and USM's Tele-Counselling Assistance line.



85
Development of Mobile Apps Tracker.
Coordinate and evaluate the effectiveness of the Mobile Apps Tracker developed by a group of lecturers and computer science researchers to facilitate the tracking of student movement on and off campus when they return to campus after the MCO is lifted.



91
COVID-19 scenario planning session.
Live chat with the USM Vice-Chancellor.



97
USM Press Digital Book Fair.



80
International envoy team on standby.
Ready to depart to India upon the lifting of the lockdown and being given the green light by the authorities to enter India, to be with the students at the KLE campus.



86
Hari Buku@Membaca USM at Hamzah Sendut Library.
'Let's Read Together for 1 Minute' initiative.



92
Special video production entitled 'A Tribute to the Frontliners'.
By the USM performing arts group Adikarima.



98
USM Press Online Book Fair.



81
Provision of a detailed SOP and evacuation plan.
To bring the USM-KLE IIMP students back to Malaysia if allowed by Wisma Putra and the local authorities of India.



87
Ask The Librarian Through Live-Chat.



93
Distribution of essential food supply to students living on and off campus (neighbouring housing estates) by USM staff and volunteers.



99
"Celebrate Earth Day!" Book Fair.



82
Setting up of a COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre.
By the KLE Society to manage and coordinate all campus activities related to COVID-19 including daily reporting/recording of students' welfare, health and safety.



88
Online Tazkirah.
Tazkirah by Islamic Centre staff on Fridays during the MCO.



94
USM Financial Scenarios and Policy Responses for the COVID-19 Era.
A comprehensive report based on the research findings by a special task force led by the Graduate School of Business Dean, on USM financial health towards the second half of this year, and 2021.



100
Activities to promote "Jom Membaca Bersama" / Let's Read Together.

STUDENTS' VOICES

Abdul Basit Bin Amran,
 Master of Science (Sustainable Cities and Communities) Student from School of Humanities.

In this lock down period, my friend and I took a step forward by providing free meals to the students who are still staying in the campus. This will give a big impact to the students who have financial problems. The whole process from purchasing source of food, cooking, packing and distribute the food are all done by the students. This program attracts many students from different race and countries come and help. The food menu also changed daily and diversified between Malay, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian and even Arab. This experience is the most beautiful memories and cannot be regained. There is no difference in colour, ethnicity and religion. Many of them are lecturers and outsiders who help funded this program. The spirit of unity is wonderful. ■

Au Soung Ying,
 final year students studying Civil Engineering at School of Civil Engineering, USM Engineering Campus.

I must admit that USM top management is doing great on encountering the situation. First our meals are being taking care as management has ensured the food stalls opening hour following schedule. Next is we have received food coupons which allow us to use to purchase our food or needs at designated stalls in the campus. These coupons have been given since the beginning of MCO. I have tried to be involved as much as possible in assisting the university management to address the challenges. I am actively involved in the session with our Vice Chancellor in helping the top management to derive reliable solutions. ■

Jasmine,
 School of Communication.

When the MCO just started, I volunteered myself every day to prepare food to give out to students who are still residing in USM at Dataran Usahawan. I have got the opportunity to get to know students from all walks of life. We have a very systematic process of food collection to ensure social distancing is kept. We also require students who come to collect food to sanitise their hands with hand sanitiser at the beginning of the line. ■

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Menlin,

Third-year student from the School of The Arts, USM.

Even though Umie (my room-mate) and I are from different schools, but we are struggling with our Final Year Project (FYP). We started to get the momentum to work harder on it during the MCO period. We had planned our own schedule, deadline, and things to be done on particular dates. We love to do sharing sessions with each other when we have difficulty or worry regarding our studies. I adore my roommate too!

USM top management always advises all the students to remain calm and do not spread any invalid info. It was quite confusing when there was too much information from various sources. To avoid misleading info, we only relied upon the Student Representative Council (MPP), USM and government's official statements. Thanks to USM's fast executions by providing a systematic guideline for us to avert from being panic. For sure, we will be missing our families. What we can do is updating our families frequently and try not to make them worry about us. ■

Rushalini Krishnan,

Final year student of School of Educational Studies.

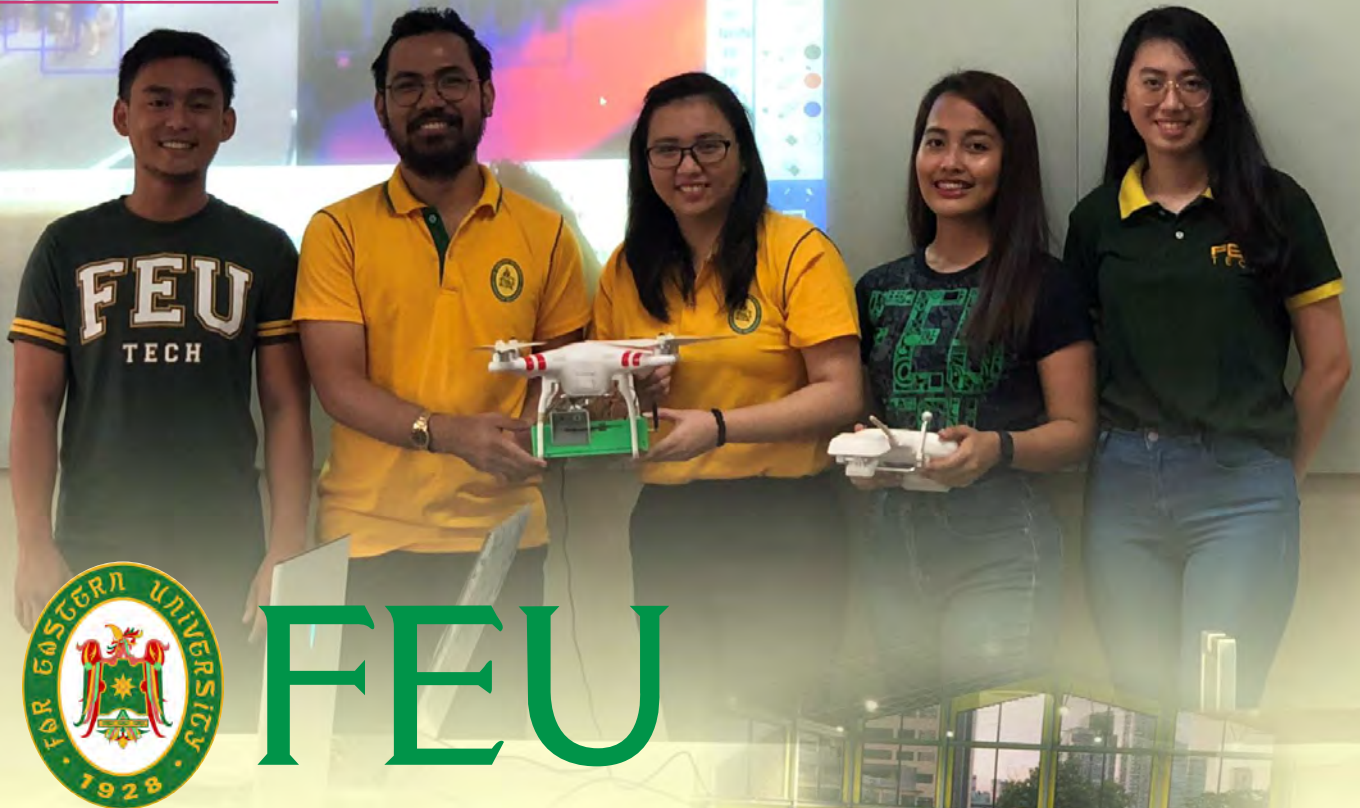
Mental health is important especially in these circumstances of being away from family. Basically, as an adult, we should be able to adapt to the changes. But considering that these changes is a real pandemic. Let me get straight to this, we are worried sick thinking about our family back in hometown. But to ensure that our parents do not worry much, of course contacting them everyday is a must. Just to let them know that we are safe and sound because USM managements are taking care of us. Mom and dad we are fine!!!! Following the process of being quarantined, I realise that even though we are restricted but when it comes to discovering our potential, we have all the time to make it happen. Its just the matter of how passionate we are in trying out new things in life. ■

Siti Suraiya binti Samsudin,

School of Chemical Sciences.

Besides free food, USM also provides counselling session for those who are in need of talking or in stress. This helps to reduce the anxiety of students who are stranded in the campus. My lecturers are also very helpful as they will ask if we are doing well in the campus or need any help. They always offer to help us and make us feel okay with their kind and encouraging words and advices. As our classes have started on 6th April, our lecturers are doing their best to continue delivering their lectures and always ask the convenient ways for us to study. ■





FEU

FEU COMMUNITY "BRAVE AS ONE"

IN COVID19 RELIEF

by Christian I. Evasco



Far Eastern University (FEU) has stepped up to help those who are most affected by the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic – the frontliners, the poor and others in need.

FEU lends a helping hand to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in the latter's relentless efforts to flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections in the Philippines. The assistance includes food provisions for the entire RITM workforce, and the use of the FEU Alabang gym as resting and sleeping quarters by RITM's administrative and technical staff as well as outsourced services personnel starting April 3, 2020.

The naturally ventilated gym has been temporarily repurposed to provide a convenient, hygienic, and comfortable area for designated RITM personnel to relax and recharge in. It accommodates 50 beds, separated into male and female sections, and a 12-seater lounge area. Separate shower, toilet, and locker facilities for men and women are also provided.

In addition, the FEU Alumni Relations Office (ARO), Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation (NRMF), and the Volunteerism Services Office (VSO) provides food packs consisting of three square meals and snacks for other FEU partner hospitals with the help of donations from alumni and student groups.

The FEU VSO has also distributed food packs for over a hundred FEU students who were stranded in their dormitories.

FEU has also joined the Project Ugnayan. The initiative, organized by top business groups, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Caritas Manila aims to deliver P1,000 worth of grocery vouchers to poor families who have lost their livelihood because of the enhanced community quarantine meant to contain #COVID19. To date, the project has reached its target of feeding 1 million families or 5 million individuals.

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Former student leader launches Pantawid Covid Project

A number of former FEU student leaders have organized fund and relief drives in their respective areas.

Former Entrepreneurship Club President Patrick Manuel organized the Pantawid Covid Project shortly after the ECQ was implemented. Relying on crowdfunding and donations, Manuel's program is providing food packs for street vendors, pedicab drivers and jeep drivers that operate near FEU.

FEU Accountancy alumnus and 2013 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines awardee John Michael Lava is among the leaders of PAKIG-AMBIT, which is an initiative of Cebu-based Certified Public Accountants to provide Personal Protective Equipment to frontliners.

John Paul Uminga, former President of the FEU Tamaraw Volunteers and Founding Executive Director of the Caloocan Young Leaders Initiative, initiated a fund-raising effort for the Dr Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital.

Meanwhile, several former FEU student-athletes donated jerseys to an auction drive named 'May Twenty Ako'. Those who participated in the auction that kicked off last March 30 include volleyball players Kyle Negrito, Heather Guino-o, Celine Domingo, Gyzel Sy, Jude Garcia and Wendell Comboy from basketball.

Innovation in Action

The FEU Institute of Technology (FEU Tech) Shell-Eco Marathon Team along with members of the online group "3D Printing for a Cause PH", creates 3D-printed face shields in their own homes for the safety of COVID-19 frontliners. With their virtual designing knowledge in prototyping using 3D printers, they were able to produce an out-of-the-box solution and apply it to the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) shortage crisis that our country is facing right now due to the continuing rise of COVID-19 cases.

Recipients of the face shields, which totaled to over 500 pieces, include Skyline Hospital and Medical Center team in Bulacan, The Philippine Army's Regional Community Defense Group and the Philippine General Hospital.

Another group of students and alumni from FEU Tech are producing 6 drone units carrying an AI powered thermal scanning system to detect possible Coronavirus carriers. Through their start-up company DWARM Technologies, the team has partnered with the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) and UPSCALE Innovation Hub to recalibrate their drone system to help in speeding up and improving the precision of thermal scanning at checkpoints.

DOST-PCIEERD will deploy the units of DWARM along the checkpoints in both the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX). This will help drastically reduce queue times as the drones will be able to scan up to 10 persons at a time, immediately flagging anybody with a temperature of 37.5°C to the monitoring staff.

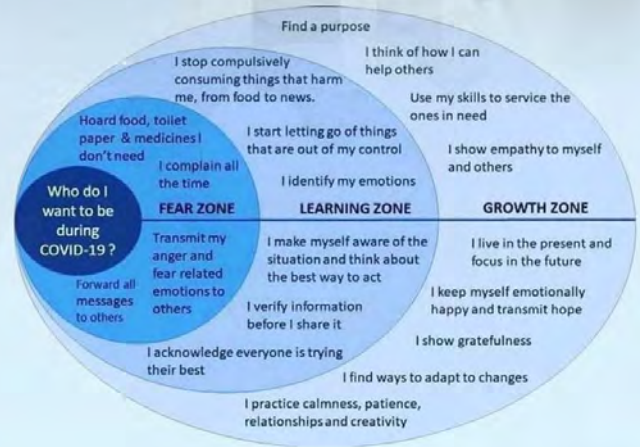
Embodying the university's values of fortitude and uprightness, the FEU community stands as one in braving the challenges of the pandemic. ■



UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS & FINANCE

WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE DURING COVID-19?

by An Dinh & Solo Keth



Upon recognizing the severity of Covid-19, beginning in February classes at the University of Economics and Finance of Ho Chi Minh city (UEF) have been closed indefinitely. Students along with faculty members have been home. Three community projects and an on-going social emotional training for service-learning students have also been postponed.

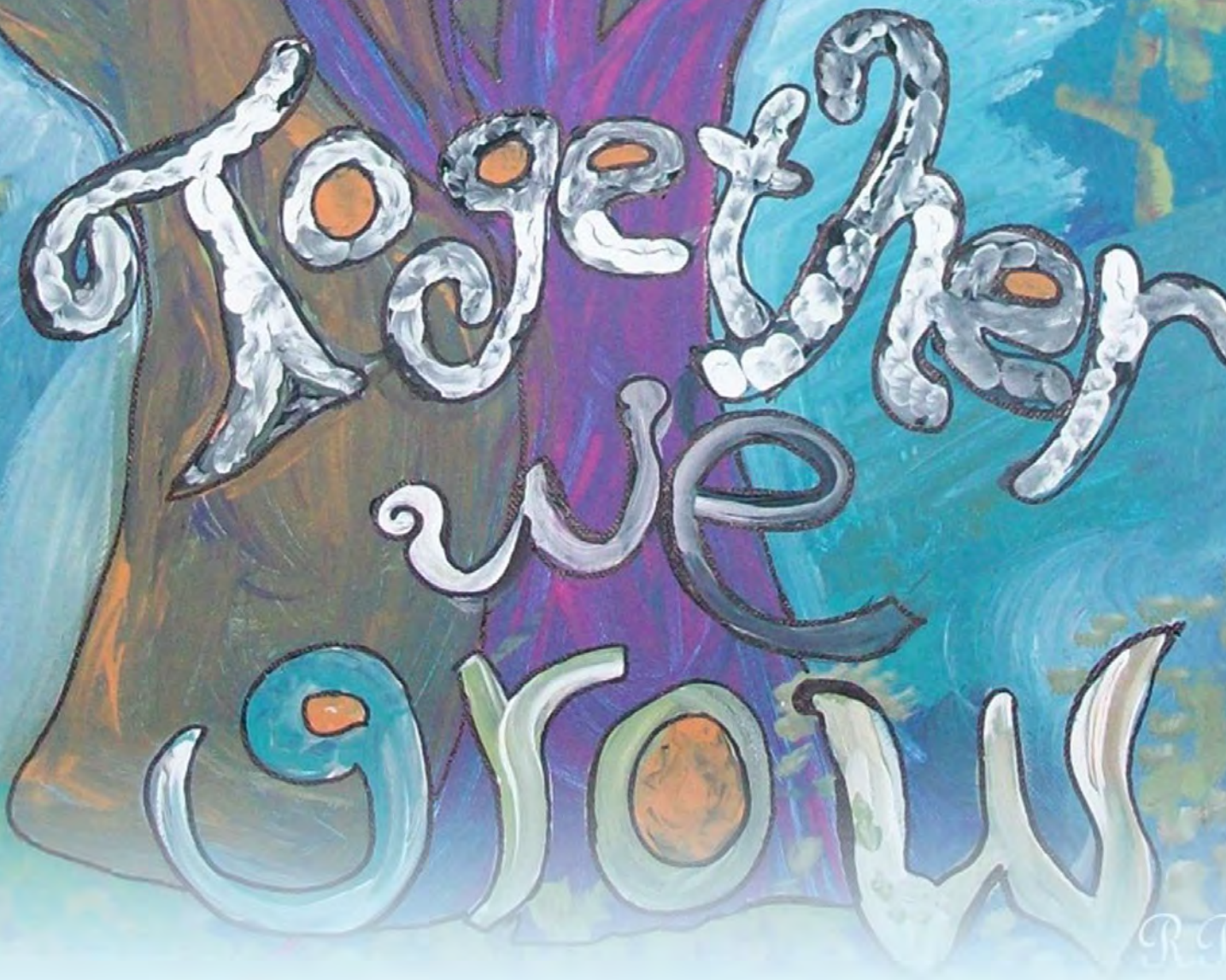
We were informed by one of our community partners (a children’s orphanage) that they will also be in need of support as well due to the children also staying home.

For the caregivers, this situation has been extremely daunting. Face-to-face support thus far has been non-existence.

The center of service learning has always instilled the practicality of learning through experience. While classes have been transitioned to online, we are still preparing for our ten-week projects. Our teachers and coordinators have been in preparations for a financial skills teaching; social skills through sports activities and marketing plan for social enterprise. It is extremely vital that our students are aware of this unique opportunity of learning.

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We have also briefed our lecturers about integrating Community Engaged Learning (CEL) in to their classes to directly incorporating the real world needs. Online meetings have been arranged among our faculties and community partners. Lecturers have realized that their student's economical skills can be used to solve societal issues. Some of them were inspired and agreed to apply CEL into their courses. At least six new service-learning courses have been designed. Marketing strategies and Branding are strengths of Economic faculty. Conversely, service-learning culminating projects, web design and mobile apps are strength of IT faculty.

The world has been affected tremendously by the Covid-19 Pandemic, an ocean of challenges have now put us in the driver seat. We must adapt to new changes and continue to grow individually and as well as a whole. As an active and young university, the center of service-learning, UEFF is striving to connect our students to understand the real world adversity. Our mission is to continue to teach and inspire others, so that as a community we will support and further our growth together as ONE ENTITY. The world once again will re-open and we must believe and prepare for a brighter future for all. With love and determination, together we can make our world a better place.



UNIVERSITY
OF MALAYA



UM ASSISTING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

by Amer Siddiq Bin Amer Nordin

IN

Malaysia, COVID-19 has taken 76 lives as of 13 April 2020, with nearly 4683 confirmed cases. As a result and to reduce these heart breaking numbers, the government has declared a Movement Control Order (MCO) likened to a “lockdown” since March 18, 2020. Thirty five hospitals nationwide have been designated as COVID treatment centres in Malaysia, meaning they screen and treat those who are positive. One of the 35 is University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), the oldest teaching hospital in Malaysia and the only non - Ministry of Health facility in the country.

Being part of the university, Universiti Malaya (UM) has focussed a great deal of attention towards her hospital where resources have been made available where possible. UM Community and Sustainability Centre or UMCares, the main community engagement center for the university has also contributed by assisting the hospital in its donation drive. The team from UMCares has mainly focussed on supporting visibility of funders and also calling for more donations where possible.

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Nirvana donates RM8mil to help frontliners and the poor

KUALA LUMPUR: Nirvana Asia Group has donated nearly RM8mil worth of medical equipment, supplies and face masks to frontliners in their battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Combined with the provision of groceries and other essentials for the lower income group, the total donation is about RM10mil.

Nirvana Asia Group founder and executive chairman Tan Sri Kong Hooi Kong said the donation in the number of infection nationwide has led to a shortage of protective medical supplies.

This situation has forced medical personnel to resort to using improvised equipment, he added.

Noting the dire situation, Kong made the donation which includes

8,700 sets of medical isolation gowns, 600,000 pieces of three-ply surgical masks, 3,400 sets of medical face shields, and 20 sets of ventilators, with a total exceeding RM5.7mil.

For the people whose livelihood has been affected by the outbreak, especially those from the lower income group, Nirvana Asia Group spent an additional RM2mil to purchase 7,500 to 10,000 sets of supplies and groceries.

The donation includes 500,000 face masks which will be distributed to the lower income group after the movement control order is lifted.

On March 31, Nirvana Asia Group was entrusted by the Health Ministry to handle the final rites for a

patient who succumbed to the disease.

The deceased's next of kin were not allowed to participate in the process, but Nirvana Asia Group gave them assurance that it would provide a dignified send-off for the departed, while complying with Health Ministry's safety requirements.

Nirvana's bereavement care service team in full protective suits collected the body from Universiti Malaya Medical Centre and sent it for cremation.

The crematorium site was disinfectant after the process.

For Covid-19 victims' families who have financial difficulties, Kong said Nirvana would help them by providing free bereavement care services.



Support for the frontliners: Kong (second from left) presenting the medical supplies and equipment to Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min (second from right).

Using IoT to predict hotspots soon

UM researchers design digital thermometers that can collect real time data

By CHRISTINA CHIN
schin@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaya's researchers have come up with the country's first infrared (IR) digital thermometer that can collect real time data.

The Internet of Things (IoT) innovation can be used to predict and detect Covid-19 hotspots in real time and it is expected to be ready for testing by next week.

The team led by Prof Dr Ng Kuan Hoong from the Faculty of Medicine and Assoc Prof Dr Nazirul Adib Kadri from the Faculty of Engineering includes Assoc Prof Dr Yeong Chai Hong, from Taylor's University and engineers Darveen Reza Sabri and Ricky Liew from a local startup.

Darveen Reza, a UM alumnus, designed and made the first prototype.

Prof Ng, who came up with the concept design on March 18, was motivated by the increasing Covid-19 incidents and the shortage of IR digital thermometers in local hospitals.

In 2018, Prof Ng became the first scientist from a developing country to receive the International Organisation for Medical Physics Marie Skłodowska-Curie Award.



Battling Covid-19

which honours scientists who have contributed to education, training and the advancement of the profession.

"When the movement control order ends, imagine tens of thousands of students returning to universities, colleges and schools.

"Access to affordable, quality devices and tracking these students will be a problem. We wanted to come up with a solution," he said.

Prof Nazirul Adib said that with the IoT-enabled device, each person screened could be tracked to build up a database of individual temperatures spatially and temporally, and the pattern could be analysed with big data.

Work to develop the prototype - Xanyu32 - started on March 23.

Chargeable with a USB port, the device runs on a 32-bit microprocessor, which can be used with IoT-connected devices such as mobile phones via a Bluetooth connection.



Joint effort: Prof Ng (left) and Prof Nazirul led the team that worked on the digital thermometer.



The device costs less than RM150, including development and labour costs.

The team is sourcing for funds to produce 1,000 units to be distributed to government agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"With 3D printing, we can do this in three weeks, at a cost of about RM150,000," said Prof Nazirul Adib, who is applying for a RM500,000 innovation research grant from UM to produce 20 IoT-ready devices.

"The second generation device, which will be ready by next week,

can be used to collect temperature and geographical data, which can be uploaded to cloud computing for big data analytics using Bluetooth technology. It operates like a weather prediction device," he added.

For example, he said, the Meteorological Department could predict the weather not just for the day but for any date in the future by using past data - dates, time of day, temperature, humidity and a specific algorithm or mathematical equation.

"In the case of this pandemic, the rate of Covid-19 infections is

Wuhan (China), Italy, Spain, the United States and other parts of the world can be correlated with the prevalence of individuals who are feverish in a given area.

"We will then come up with a mathematical equation that may predict whether a certain area will become a hotspot," Prof Nazirul Adib said.

On the issue of personal data protection, he said for the device to be used on patients, more testing, data validation and safety standard certifications from the authorities, including the Health Ministry and SIRIM, were needed.

"For clinical trials, the device may be used on patients. The privacy of those involved in a research is safeguarded by UM's clinical ethics committee," he said, adding that the while commercialisation of the device could take up to two years, the team's immediate goal was to help stem the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

The ministry's Medical Device Authority said the innovation must comply with the Medical Device Act 2012.

"The device must be registered before it can be marketed.

"The company that produces and distributes it will need to have an establishment licence," it said.

COVID-19 FAQs

All ops under the Youth and Sports Ministry closed for now

Below are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) for activities under the jurisdiction of the Youth and Sports Ministry during the movement control order (MCO) period.

Q: Will the ministry and agencies under its jurisdiction suspend all operations under the MCO?

A: All operations under the MCO will be suspended.

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UMCares has also managed to collaborate with UNICEF in providing technical expertise and also activities for children and supporting their mental health during this MCO period apart from planning for the next phase, post-MCO. This collaboration which is together with The Star.AGE amongst others is in response to the need for greater support for children in need.

An area of need in the fight of COVID-19, particularly post-MCO will be mental health. In light of this, the Selangor Government had launched the second phase of its stimulation package, where mental health matters is a significant part of this. UMCares is in the forefront by collaborating and providing expertise to calm the people during this period apart from supporting their mental health. This is in line with the UM Mental Health Initiative launched just before the MCO in early March by the previous Minister of Health, Malaysia.

Finally, UMCares has also produced a short bulletin for its stakeholders in supporting their physical and mental well-being apart from tips on caring for children and elderly. As most of us are working from home during this period, UMCares is also providing material to support people in this situation so they will make the most of this period and be better as a result.

We wish take this opportunity to wish everyone in APUCEN a safe time at home. We also would like to convey to everyone that we are all in this together and not forget washing your hands, maintaining your physical distance and ensuring cough etiquette at all time. Physical distancing is not emotional distancing, and therefore we hope to hear from each other soon.

รับฟัง "โควิด-19"



CHULALONGKORN
UNIVERSITY

COURAGES, COMPASSIONATE AND INNOVATIVE WAYS

CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY DEALING WITH COVID-19

by Narin Hiransuthikul

C

COVID-19 has affected all sectors in society and higher education is no exception. In Thailand which emerged in the early list of outbreak after Wuhan in China, universities activities have been tremendously disrupted.

As the country's first and leading university, Chulalongkorn University has coped with the pandemic using various measures and approaches, guided by courage, compassion and innovative thinking.

Before any other universities in Thailand, Chula, as it is known in short, issued the first COVID-19 announcement in mid-January that allowed students and staff returning from risk countries or in close contact with those at risk to be on 14-day leave for self-quarantine. It was also the first university to impose travel restrictions to and from risk countries in accordance with the list of the World Health Organization (WHO). These swift measures were then criticized by many as paranoia but later proven

to be courageous efforts that likely have prevented many infections and illnesses on campus. Almost two months later, two positive cases were confirmed on campus – a lecturer and a student.

The university then passed an internal Standard of Practice (SOP) that includes immediate contact tracing, area disinfection, and disseminating necessary information to the public. This SOP provided guidelines for action in subsequent cases and modified in April in accordance with lockdown situation.

Throughout the crisis, the university health center has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 fight. Apart from offering COVID-19 screening and testing services, the center has also worked closely and tirelessly with the specially appointed COVID-19 emergency operation taskforce. This center and the taskforce have been working with public health officials to monitor the ongoing spread of the virus on our campus.

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As the outbreak was elevated to pandemic level and lockdown policy imposed in late March, Chula moved all classes online. The university's established Learning Innovation Center (LIC) readily supplied teaching staff and students with online learning tools and software while continuing to promote lifelong learning to upskill the Chula community and the larger public through hundreds of online courseware.

Alongside, the Office of Information Technology has added VPN for more than 3,000 concurrent users and distributed free SIM card to staff and students at 4 Mbps (unlimited). In addition, Chula's innovative approach also manifested in several cutting-edge inventions from frontier research including the so-called Chula COVID-19 strip test that features a rapid COVID-19 antibody diagnostic test kit for COVID-19, the RoboCovid project that reduces contact with patients, and Lung Care mobile application, all of which have won recognition locally and internationally.

Meanwhile, the so-called CU V Care project was initiated to accommodate recovering COVID-19 patients and PUIs in need of rehabilitation or self-quarantine whereby two residential buildings on campus were vacated and rapidly modified into shelter in place. Although the first phase of the project is intended mainly for members of Chula community and their families, the second phase which is ongoing aims to care for recovering patients from the adjacent King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

Amid fake news and information overload from the pandemic, the university has made a concerted effort in establishing reliable platform of communication dedicated to COVID-19 through Chula COVID-19 websites -- <https://www.chula.ac.th/covid-19/> and <https://www.chula.ac.th/en/covid-19/>, available in both Thai and English.

In the big picture, welfare support has been rendered to students and staff in this critical time. For instance, additional insurance benefits were extended during COVID-19 outbreak to all registered students, local and international, and all personnel, with coverage in testing, medical expenses, hospitalization and loss of life. In addition, psychological counseling was offered around the clock at the university's wellness office and through hotline to alleviate pandemic-related stress. ■



TOGETHER TO CURB THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

by *Mohammad Amirol Bin Abdul Rahim*

IN

the wake of recent developments in the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, as updated by the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam, Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPUSB) has announced several things.

First and foremost, students are not required to attend university college from 24 March, 2020 until a later date to be announced.

Secondly, teaching and learning sessions will be conducted online using appropriate online learning applications. Students are required to contact their respective lecturers via telephone, SMS, WhatsApp application and email.

The third thing is that the teaching and learning sessions of each course follow the predefined class schedule. The final approach is that the hostel for local students are instructed to close.



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BEKERJASAMA
DENGAN

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In this regard, in a joint effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, especially to KUPUSB staff and staff on duty, body temperature checks are carried out at the main gate of KUPUSB and hand sanitizer was also provided at several places in the university campus.

KUPUSB will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 outbreaks from time to time as well as to coordinate any action with reference to the Circular issued by the Prime Minister's Department and the Press Release from the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam.

KUPUSB lecturer and students had volunteered in the COVID-19 mission through the Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Center (MOHEOC) at the Al-Afiah Hall of the Ministry of Health. Before the volunteers moved in, they have to sign an oath of indemnity form witnessed by the Ministry of Health's Administrative Officer. Then the volunteers had to attend the briefing and assigned to different locations. The students were assigned to RIPAS Hospital and Sekolah Arab Rimba. The KUPUSB team is led by the Coordinator of the KUPUSB Red Crescent Team. ■



USM

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iPPT

INSTITUT PERUBATAN & PERGIANGAN TERMAJU

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ADVANCED MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSTITUTE USM

by Syed Azhar Syed Sulaiman

Covid19 started in China where the first reported case officially noted on 31st December 2019. Before there were numerous of weird pneumonia like syndrome occurred in many hospital in Wuhan, China. Based on the incident in China, early January 2020, Advanced Medical and Dental Institute had a meeting and decided that we have to have strategy to educate our community to make them understand the potential problem that might arise from the incident. A number of pamphlets were produced and distributed to all staff, patients and surrounding community. All posters and pamphlets were in local Malay language. Technique of hand washing and information regarding what is corona virus were developed too.

On 25th January 2020, first case of Covid 19 was reported in Malaysia. Based on the facts that Covid 19 becoming more intensive in term of number of cases around the world, in early February, the Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (AMDI) of Universiti Sains Malaysia, took a step ahead to work together with Deputy Minister of Penang distributing pamphlets and information regarding the disease at our hospital. It was very successful event where patients appreciate our effort and they were informed regarding the seriousness of the diseases. Late February we realized that we have to do things differently as cases of covid19 escalating drastically around the world. Our team started to produce our own hand sanitizers, face shields and preparing our own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as most of the needed items started to be depleted in the market due to its demand.



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A Covid 19 task force from the community area was established in mid of March 2020 consisting of numerous agencies around the community. This task force helped in term of distributing various need to the government and private agencies in need of medical requirements such as face masks, hand sanitizers, PPE and food to all the front liners medical workers in the community. AMDI has taken lead together with various NGOs in producing medical needs such as face shields, PPE, hand sanitizers and few others.

Despite of handling critical situation of Covid 19, AMDI on 7th April 2020, has created another history where our surgeon's team for the first time has successfully performed left lateral sectionectomy whereby the left lobe of the liver was removed due to tumor growth. It was indeed mark a success story for AMDI and USM as a whole. Not many of such procedure is being done throughout the country. We in AMDI are hoping that this difficult situation will be handled well with proud and pride. May God protect all of us from this pandemic. ■





Living Knowledge

The International Science Shop Network

IOWA STATE
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Extension and Outreach

**STRENGTHENING
Families PROGRAM**
FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH 10-14

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ONE BY ONE: A GLOBAL EFFORT

by *Catheryn M. Hockaday*

W

hen COVID-19 hit the United States, it stopped the Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14 (SFP 10-14) program in its tracks for sites all around the world. After all, how can you deliver a program where 10 families come together in a room for 2 hours, sit inches away from each other, and hold hands during some activities? Then it became apparent that COVID-19 was not going to be as temporary as first thought. Families started saying “we need you more than ever”. So Iowa State University, where SFP 10-14 was developed and provides training globally, answered the call and decided to give families everywhere the tools they need during this time.

Sites across the United States started answering the calls by virtually delivering SFP 10-14 to families who were ready to learn more of the “tools” of the program. SFP 10-14 teaches families how to build a strong foundation through communication. In Wisconsin, SFP 10-14 families worked together to solve problems such as how to get school work done when there is no internet in the home. In Colorado, the youth learned how to virtually “fish” for good friends and how to throw the bad friends back into the water. In Washington, families learned how uncontrollable experiences cause stress. The last of the 7 sessions teaches families the motto “*Strong families help others when they can and get help themselves they need it*”. The tools SFP 10-14 has taught families for over 25 years are the exact things that families need during this time of stress.

Agencies and educational institutions, large and small, who normally deliver SFP 10-14 answered the call to engage families through other means. The Youth Connection in Detroit, Michigan calls their 167 SFP 10-14 families every week to give them 10 minutes of what they call “*Live, Laugh, and Love*”. During this time they read them a poem, tell them a joke, and teach them one interesting fact such as polar bears are left-handed. Their goal is simple – reconnect with their SFP 10-14 families to show they care and to brighten their day.

We choose to look at this time as a time for opportunity. Families are home together and are hungry for ideas. So we will nourish their minds with short videos from Colorado State University that teach families how to find local resources, provide information about ways they can help manage their families in these challenging times, and ideas on ways to manage their own stress and stress responses during this time. These topics are all part of the 7 week SFP 10-14 program. Our goal is to provide some learning tools for stressed families everywhere right in their living rooms. These videos will be available for families in every state and will be used as a marketing tool for face-to-face SFP 10-14 programming when social distancing is a distant memory. ■

#SFP1014StrongerTogether



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

COORDINATING RESOURCES AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SITUATION

by *Elizabeth Tryon*

S

taff at the Morgridge Center for Public Service are helping coordinate efforts for faculty, students and community partners during this pandemic. We are providing referrals for alternatives for students to participate in no-contact or virtual activities to fulfill course or service organization requirements, as well as sharing resources with instructors and virtual spaces for them to come together, grieve for their partnerships ending so abruptly, and help their students cope with the sudden switch to online coursework.

We have compiled a central spot for resources on our website to support students, faculty/staff, and community partners as they pivot to virtual experiences. Urgent volunteer requests at places like food banks have also been compiled and shared with our city government, nonprofit association and community organizations. See the full list at: <https://morgridge.wisc.edu/covid-19/>

One example comes from Laura Livingston, a graduate assistant at the Morgridge Center. She and her partner at an elementary school horticulture education program are “adapting their Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant to meet the needs of the school community amid the COVID-19 crisis. The Gompers Grows team are digitizing curriculum and course content and creating ‘seed kits’ which will be distributed at meal distribution centers. A school garden will be maintained with digital tours and interactive content for students and families to engage with gardening.”

We are also supporting a project on messaging to encourage the public to follow the COVID guidelines <https://ghi.wisc.edu/researchers-at-uw-madison-lead-data-science-coalition-to-aid-with-covid-19/>. In addition, we are hosting web-based discussions with staff at neighborhood organizations to focus on ways to sustain the current empathy beyond the crisis stage of the pandemic, knowing that many families were already living in a climate of uncertainty and insecurity and will be even more challenged in the aftermath of the pandemic. ■



WESTLIFE GROUP

WESTLIFE GROUP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by Joanna Hu & Mike Tan



Now arguably the first COVID 19 infected individual was found in Wuhan, China, in December 8, 2019. This is a new type of corona-virus, which can be transmitted through general contact, respiratory droplets, etc. The lack of understanding of the virus at first led to its rapid spread. But after the outbreak, people all over the world have been helping the affected countries and people. This COVID - 19 is a big test for all walks of life in the whole society. During the pandemic, the CHONGQING WESTLIFE CULTURAL COMMUNICATION CO. LTD. actively responded to the call, gave full play to its own advantages, actively overcame difficulties and made every effort to help fighting the pandemic.

Give full play to regional advantages and assist in purchasing materials

After the outbreak, with the company's geographical advantages, the general manager Prof. Dr. Xing (Mike) Tan actively contacted and launched a wide range of social resources in Australia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Indonesia and other regions and countries. In the case of traffic jam and shortage of national pandemic prevention materials, he managed to contact the relevant departments of the state and assisted in the purchase of pandemic prevention materials in the form of internet telephone or online investigation. At last, a lot of materials were raised for the country in a short time.

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Help at home and abroad

As the president of the Southwest University Australian Alumni Association and vice president of Chongqing Overseas Chinese Youth Association, Prof. Dr. Xing (Mike) Tan has made outstanding contributions to the pandemic. After the pandemic, he actively donated money to the China local authorities and purchased medical disinfectant and other anti pandemic materials, and sent them to the front line of XiaoGan City of Hubei Province in China. In addition, considering the actual situation of the pandemic in Malaysia, the company also arranged special personnel to give masks and medicines to the students of Yangtze Normal University who were in Malaysia for mobility programs, and arranged personnel to look after the students' daily food procurement, so as to solve actual problems and reduce the anxieties of students and parents to the greatest extent.

In this pandemic, we have witnessed too much misfortune and emotion. The Chinese people have always adhered to the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, actively promoted international cooperation in pandemic prevention and control, provided help within their capabilities to the people in need, made significant contributions to global public health, and won high recognition and appreciation from all parties. As an enterprise actively serving the community, CHONGQING WESTLIFE CULTURAL COMMUNICATION CO. LTD. has always stood firmly with the affected people everywhere, believing that the world will eventually tide over the difficulties together and usher in a better future. ■



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