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APUCEN

Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network

*Moving Forward through
University-Community Engagement*

www.apucen.usm.my





Message from the **PRESIDENT** **APUCEN**

Professor Dato' Dr. Omar Osman

I am honoured to present the significant evolvments and attainments of APUCEN in this 5th Issue of APUCEN Bulletin. APUCEN has gained a foothold with 78 institutional members spanning 18 countries. This will enable us to achieve our aspirations in a more effective way as we have more minds to collaborate with. APUCEN intends to widen its network by targeting to have corporate agencies as members.

To date, APUCEN members have taken various initiatives to be implemented in community engagement projects, which have made major transformations in the society. All projects have been successful after discussions through a series of regional and national meetings. A total of 15 UCE projects are shared in this issue.

Rebuild Nepal 2015 was one of the very impactful projects of APUCEN, where several APUCEN members joined hands in changing the lives of the earthquake victims in Nepal. Also noteworthy is the Empowering Youth for Drug Free Community (EYDFC). EYDFC is one of our flagship projects and its aim is to create awareness among children and teenagers on the pessimism of drug abuse.

APUCEN has committed in the University-Community Engagement Conference (UCEC) 2015, which was held in Gold Coast, Australia from 1st to 3rd November 2015 followed by the 7th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting on 4th November 2015. I wish to thank all APUCEN members for attending the 7th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting. I truly appreciate all ideas and thoughts contributed by all members during the meeting.

I am proud to introduce APUCEN Student Chapter@University which is soon to be implemented in our organization. APUCEN Student Chapter@University will allow us to be more holistic by getting the whole community of a University to be involved in community engagement programmes. It is my heartfelt hope that all members cooperate and collaborate to implement this APUCEN Student Chapter@University.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all APUCEN members who have contributed articles for this Bulletin. Let us move forward through community engagement. ■

2016

12-14 APRIL

Call for Papers

ICAW2016

APUCEN Bulletin #5 3

Second International Conference On ASEAN Women

“Gender Mainstreaming and Public Policy”

Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

For further information, please contact us :

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organized:



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Second International Conference on Asean Women (ICAW2016)



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) is at the forefront of community engagement in the area of women entrepreneurship and has been translated into several anchor programmes such as research, training and conference. To date, the conference has reached the international network, as well as participants. The International Conference on ASEAN Women (ICAW) does not only cater to various women related issues in ASEAN but also form integrated scholarships on women in the region.

ICAW2016 is organized by the Northern Corridor Research Centre (NCRC), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in cooperation with Universitas Islam Bandung, Indonesia (UNISBA), University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN). This conference will be held on 12th to 14th April 2016 in Kota Kinabalu, where offers exciting beaches, amazing sunset and various natural attractions. This is the second International Conference on ASEAN Women, intended to be an open platform for discussion, networking and a point of reference for academia, researchers, professionals, administrators, policy makers, practitioners and others interested in women empowerment, leadership, representation, community and economy of ASEAN women.

This conference offers viable opportunities such as networking with other researchers, policy makers and NGOs in related fields, exchanging ideas and experiences and meeting friends from all ASEAN countries.

The ICAW2016 will provide outstanding and renowned speakers and this will provide an opportunity for participants to interact with prominent leaders in the field relating to ASEAN women. This conference will be officiated by Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Jainab Datuk Seri Panglima Hj. Ahmad Ayid, Minister of Community Development and Consumer Affairs, Sabah. Prof. Dato' Dr. See Ching Mey, Chairperson of APUCEN@Malaysia will be one of the invited distinguished speakers. She is an expert in community engagement in Asia-Pacific region.

Conference Sub-theme:

- Economic, Business and Management
- Education and Indigenous Knowledge
- Elderly Children and Minority Group
- Entrepreneurship
- Welfare
- Human Rights and Protection
- Islamization of Gender Mainstreaming
- Law, Religion Moral and Ethics
- Leadership
- Politics and Representation
- Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Security, Disaster and War
- University-Community Engagement
- Others

REBUILD NEPAL 2015

A Community Engagement Initiative

Kakani, Kathmandu, Nepal
July 2015

with
Shelters



Kyoto University
of Foreign Studies

MMICARE ASSOCIATION



N

epal suffered an extreme earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, which set off an avalanche from Mount Everest on 25th April 2015. Nepal experienced a second earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale two weeks later. The monsoon has arrived in Nepal where heavy rains and strong winds are fuelling fears of another quake or avalanche. A need assessment showed that the current tarpaulin tents cannot withstand the heavy rains and winds and neither will it withstand the harsh winter in November/December through to 2016. What are urgently needed are temporary shelters such as homes, schools and medical centres. There is a desperate need for temporary shelters which can endure at least 24 months as families rebuild their brick homes. For many, these temporary shelters may be home for five years as money is scarce. In early June 2015, following a visit to the affected areas in Nepal, MMICARE Association sent out an SOS for temporary shelters as homes and schools to the Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN).

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- 01 Promotes Regional and Global University-Community Engagement Networking
- 02 Conducts Joint National & Regional University-Community Engagement Projects/Flagship Projects
- 03 Disseminates & Shares Information, Knowledge and Resources about University Community Engagement
- 04 Organizes University-Community Engagement Capacity Building

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...during the day, these shelters are to be used as classrooms whilst at night these shelters are used as temporary sleeping facilities for the community...

The Rebuild Nepal 2015 Project was announced during the 6th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting by the President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman in Chiang Mai University on 17th June 2015. Rebuild Nepal 2015 called upon all APUCEN members to partake in a global movement to help Nepal rise again and commit the university to international community engagement. Several APUCEN members responded to this call and contributed to the project, namely Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (KUFS), Universiti Islam Sains Malaysia (USIM), AIMST University, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) and Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Sri Bengawan (KUPUSB).

Stickers of REBUILD NEPAL 2015 along with donor names were affixed on 24 shelters for residents in Kakani. Each temporary shelter comprised of 12 zinc sheets, four metres of Polyurethane (PU) flooring and a Solar-powered Lamp. Three additional temporary shelters were built in the Sri Gowla Devi Primary School for use as Pre-School and Primary One classrooms. During the day, these shelters are to be used as classrooms whilst at night these shelters are used as temporary sleeping facilities for the community. On 30th July 2015, the local school committee organised a simple ceremony to welcome and thank APUCEN and the contributing members for the donation of the three temporary shelters for the Pre-School children aged 2 to 5 years. ■





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USM
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MMICARE ASSOCIATION



Kyoto University
of Foreign Studies

COACHING 4Fun AGAINST THE QUAKEs

Empowering Community Rebuilding Lives
Kathmandu, Nepal
29 July 2015



LCTC
UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY
TRANSFORMATION CENTRE



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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

MMICARE ASSOCIATION



LCTC
UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY
TRANSFORMATION CENTRE



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Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN), the leading university network promoting service and volunteerism in the Asia Pacific region; MMICARE Association, a leading women empowerment organization from Malaysia; Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM); Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (KUFS), Japan; Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM); AIMST University; Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPUSB), Brunei and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris-UCTC (UPSII) joined hands with ENGAGE Nepal to initiate an innovative approach to support victims of the recent earthquakes in Nepal on 25th April 2015. The organisations collaborated and implemented a pilot project known as "Coaching4Fun Against the Quakes" where persons with permanent disability or injury due to the earthquakes were identified and encouraged to start a new personal and professional journey that started with sports. The programmes encouraged leadership and empowerment among the disabled and helped them to achieve new goals in life. This project aided the disabled children and youth to re-engage with the society through Sports.

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...The programmes encouraged leadership and empowerment among the disabled and helped them to achieve new goals in life...

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WHEN YOUNG AND
KEPT IT TRUE

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The most preferred
paint company in Nepal

APUCEN
Creating Synergy
through Partnership



This project has helped people who are permanently disabled to gain self-esteem. It has given them hope to achieve new goals. People who have lost hope on their lives due to what has happened would have gained confidence on themselves after this programme was implemented. It is believed that this experience will give them new spirit and enthusiasm to start a new life. This can also be a step for them to walk forward nearing success without worries of being looked down upon. The project was officiated and launched in GA Futsal Hall in Kathmandu on 29th July 2015. The representatives of the four visiting organisations (APUCEN, MMICare Association, USM, KUFS) had the opportunity to interact with some of the wheelchair players involved in Coaching4Fun. In the same occasion, a match between two wheelchair basketball teams was held. The event was recorded for Nepali TV by XinHua Online TV and Himalayan TV. ■





English Book Donation to the Underprivileged Students under Saraphi Health Model Project

Universiti Sains Malaysia together with Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network had joined hands with Chiang Mai University to donate English educational books to four selected schools in Chiang Mai, Thailand that are involved in community health programmes at the Saraphi Hospital on 17th June 2015.

Based on the English Proficiency Index (EF, 2011) Thailand is categorized as "very low" in its English proficiency and overall TOEFL (ETS, 2010) score, which indicates that the mean score of Thai test takers is below average of Southeast Asian countries and continues to fall. Moreover, in the 2011 IMD World Competitiveness Report, Thailand was ranked 54th out of 56 countries globally for English proficiency, the second-lowest in Asia. A step had to be taken and this project had been the first step where the Division of Industry and Community Network (DICN), USM, extended helping hands to resolve the community education issue.



Sarapeepittayakom School

...APUCEN in collaboration with DICN of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Chiang Mai University (CMU) helped the children from various schools under Saraphi Health Model Project to improve its English proficiency...

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Sridonchai Municipality School



Wat Tha Ton Kwao School



Wat Weruwan School

The objectives of the project are to expose the children to English education and to instill the interest of applying and adopting English as the second language. APUCEN in collaboration with DICN and Chiang Mai University (CMU) had given the opportunity to help the children from various schools under Saraphi Health Model Project. Learning a second language is exciting and beneficial at all ages. Through this English book donation by APUCEN, USM and CMU, we hope that it can help to improve the English language proficiency among the youngsters and students by improving their reading skills, widening their knowledge and developing a global mindset. The four schools that benefited from this project were Wat Tha Ton Kwao School, Wat Weruwan School, Sarapeepittayakom School dan Sridonchai Municipality School, all of which are special schools that focus on moral development in Saraphi district.



14-20 SEPTEMBER

EYDFC 2015

Empowering Youth for Drug-Free Community

APUCEN
Asia-Pacific University-Community
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USM
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

APEX

Empowering Youth For Drug-Free Community (EYDFC 2015)

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) via its Centre of Excellence, Asian Centre for Research on Drug Abuse (ACREDA) organized a programme entitled "Empowering Youth for Drug-Free Community 2015 (EYDFC 2015)" which was held from 14th to 18th September 2015 at USIM and selected drug rehabilitation centers in Kuala Lumpur. The programme was also supported by Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN) who adopted this programme as one of their flagship projects.

The main objective of this EYDFC project is to provide information and knowledge on education and prevention as well as treatment and rehabilitation programmes of drug abuse. This EYDFC project was also aimed to create awareness among the youth, in particular to offer them emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical support and sustenance in terms of their understanding about the drug prevention process, drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes. This project was also intended to boost awareness and concern of the community in particular among youth regarding the worsening situation of drug abuse among them. Participants were exposed to



the actual life of those who are homeless as a result of drug abuse. In addition, site visits to drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities in Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding areas provided the participants with an insight to the real challenges in managing people recovering from drug addiction problems. Many participants found that the project was enlightening and informative and this helped them to understand the issues related to drug abuse and addiction.

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A total of 50 participants registered for the EYDFC project. The participants were mainly teenagers (15 to 19) and adults with their age ranging from 21 to 43. The programme involved five different Universities from Malaysia namely Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) along with two NGO groups. EYDFC activities consisted of visits to selected Drug Rehabilitation Centres and class-based lectures as well as sharing of experience in dealing with drug abuse. All the participants visited four different drug rehabilitation centers, namely Pengasih Malaysia Kuala Lumpur, Cure and Care Rehabilitation, Community Excel Services and Yayasan Salam. During the site visits, participants were exposed to the different treatment modules conducted by the above centres. The participants also gained information and witnessed real challenges in managing recovering persons with drug addiction problems.

In addition to the visit to the above drug rehabilitation centres, EYDFC participants also participated in the night out-reach activity in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. This activity was designed to allow all participants to have direct experience meeting with drug addicts

among the high risk groups and homeless people in Kuala Lumpur. Participants were exposed to the real life and challenges of homeless people.

Talks and workshops were conducted by experienced lecturers and officers from USIM and a few drug related agencies in Malaysia. In conjunction with this programme, one simple study was conducted by ACREDA. The overall objective for this study was to examine the significant changes of participants' perceptions regarding drug prevention programme in the community before and after attending the EYDFC project.

The aim of this programme is to enhance the understanding and awareness of youths to participate in drug abuse prevention programmes was a great success of EYDFC 2015. It is hoped that this community based drug prevention programme can be a good start for all participants to organise a collective and continuous drug prevention programme in their communities. All the participants have come to a single conclusion, that drug addicts are not criminals, but they are also normal person who need to be cured and cared for. Therefore corrective and preventive measures need to be taken to eradicate the drug problem from the very beginning. ■

...a total of **50** participants registered for the EYDFC project. The participants were mainly teenagers (15 to 19) and adults with their age ranging from 21 to 43...



Action in Support of Project in Nepal 2015

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his year, the devastating earthquake in Nepal saw us focusing most of our fundraising relief efforts towards the people of that country and the terrible life-threatening situation they found themselves in. Even before the disaster, however, we had committed ourselves to supporting projects for the NGO "Hands for Care", a small group of dedicated young people based in Kathmandu. Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (KUFS) who had joined APUCEN since year 2012 initiated two grassroots projects, Kyoto Books4Books and Gaidai Books4Books, where funds were sent to support the setting up of a village school library in January 2015, with additional support in March and April 2015. Kyoto Books4Books is managed by KUFS where as Gaidai Books4Books is a university circle managed by 18 Kyoto Gaidai students. However, the majority of funds came from one major event, the 11th annual Kamogawa Sponsored Walk on 31st May 2015. This event raised 2,438,900 yen, with around two-thirds of the total going to relief support for Nepal. There were 62 walkers from nine different nationalities (including 26 Kyoto Gaidai students, 10 Kyoto Gaidai faculty staff and 26 other Kyoto residents) involved in this walk. The funds raised were given to different NGO groups such as Hands for Care, Kopernik, Shakti Samuha and Zienezele Foundation to help the victims.



...this event raised **2,438,900** yen, with around two-thirds of the total going to relief support for Nepal...

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Hands for Care is a small grassroots NGO. The largest portion of the walk proceeds was given to this group, as they were some of the first responders with aid to the villages around Kathmandu, often carrying supplies on their backs over landslides and other obstacles. This was very dangerous, but they did not stop. Instead, they visited the scenes of devastation several times. They provided a lot of assistance with food, tents and shelter earlier on, and are now working on repairing village schools.

Kopernik is another international NGO that has been involved for several years. This includes fund raising at events such as Cooks4Cooks and Drums4Drums, which Gaidai students have helped to organize. Kopernik was very quick to respond with much needed solar lights and chargers as well as water purifiers through Emergency Response Appeals.

Part of the money was contributed to a new student group at Kyoto Gaidai, which has been trying to raise money to help Nepal. This group will donate the money raised to Shakti Samuha, which is an NGO that focuses on rescuing and supporting Nepali girls who have been victims of human trafficking. This is a major problem and is usually much worse in post-disaster situations. ■

The New For Typhoon Survivors New Bataan Philippines



ON

4th December, 2014, San Pedro College (SPC), through its program called *Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Research Program* (SPC-DRRMRP) and in collaboration with Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Foundation Inc. (MMGAFI), started a housing project called *Sustainable Engagement for Restoration of Village and Establishment of Shelters* (SERVES). Its objective is to help Typhoon Pablo survivors in rebuilding and sustaining a healthy and disaster-resilient Christian community in Barangay Andap, New Bataan, Compostela Valley, Philippines. Not only does SPC-DRRMRP have SERVES but also aims to provide psychosocial support, health skills training, livelihood projects, medical mission, among others to the places most affected by the deadly typhoon.

The *Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) and *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) are being signed by Rev. Fr. Edgar L. Tuling, the CEO of MMAGFI and the parish priest, Sr. Annabella A. Rona, OP, President/CEO of SPC and witnessed by Sr. Aida T. Frencillo, OP, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of SPC and Regional Prioress of The Dominican Sisters of the Trinity, Rev. Fr. Roy D. Belocura, Board Member of MMAGFI and the Assistant Parish Priest, Dr. Marleonie M. Bauyot, Vice President for Administration of SPC and SPC-DRRMRP Program Director and Lorenzo L. Balbin, Jr., Municipal Mayor of New Bataan to launch the project and begin the aid for the people of Andap, New Bataan. A year later since it began, SERVES through its initiatives produced 10 newly built semi-concrete houses which are now occupied by the families and they quite brightly shared how happy they were to have a new chance to restart their lives from where they left off before the tragedy befell while the other families, whom are waiting

for their new homes to finish, gladly detailed the fast progress of the construction. On Sundays, the families leave their homes bright and early to go to the village's church, which had been heavily damaged by the typhoon and was rebuilt with the help of SPC-DRRMRP, for the first mass of the day. The Christian community of Andap, New Bataan had never been closer and stronger, bonded with love and compassion for each other.

Yet despite the efforts of SPC-DRRMRP and the years gone by since the tragedy, many still remain in need of new homes. With so many of the previous residents desiring to come back and be nearer to their livelihood but had lost everything to the typhoon, many residents remain homeless in Andap, but the tireless efforts of our institution have not waned in the slightest. Thinking of the families and those who are in great need of our help has only fueled our determination to lend a hand and pull them up from such a devastating event. Coming face to face with the people who have lost so much and yet filled with an optimism that they will heal from that loss; one does not need to take a second glance at the residents to feel the urge to do everything in our power to help. Being part of such a worthy cause and being committed to it had never made any of the members of our institution prouder.



Beginning in Pablo (Bopha) in Andap, Bataan, Compostela Valley,

...With so many of the previous residents desiring to come back and be nearer to their livelihood but had lost everything to the typhoon, many residents remain homeless in Andap...

Now, the residents of Andap, New Bataan remain resilient and hopeful through it all. With a strength rarely encountered, they trudge forward into the future filled with hope for their new beginning.

APUCEN, during the University-Community Engagement Conference 2015 and the 7th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting at Gold Coast, Australia in November 2015 had pledged all APUCEN members to join hands to rebuild and transform the lives of the survivors of the typhoon in Andap, through sponsoring of the building of permanent shelters or providing services or expertise in health-care.

For those who are interested to be part of this initiative by APUCEN, please contact APUCEN secretariat at apucen@usm.my





Social Work Beyond Classroom:

Nepal School of



Social Work Responses to Earthquake, Nepal

IT

was are really great opportunity for Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) to serve people and give psychosocial first aid to men, women, children and the youths for one month. NSSW being a member of APUCEN, had conducted various programmes like cluster meetings, conducting sessions with the youths, children, men and women from the Bhimtar Village Development Committee (VDC) of Sindupalchok. NSSW also helped in clearing the debris of Shree Bhemishowari School, which was completely demolished and there were around 5 student deaths due to the earthquake.

During its ten years in social work education, NSSW has been an educator, an advocate and activist in establishing social work education and profession in Nepal. Having dedicated, passionate and energetic young social work students and faculties who were willing to go and live with the community at the moment of distress, grief and desperation, NSSW involved all its resources, expertise and experience to reach out to earthquake survivors in the six most affected villages. This has brought an essence to our community engagement programme as it collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) and Tata Sustainable Group (TSG). This integrated social work intervention has been an example of Multi Universities and Community Engagements.

“YOU DON'T NEED TO BE GREAT TO START BUT YOU START TO BE GREAT!”

The programme design of Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) describes a humane, supportive response to a fellow human being who is suffering and may need psychological and social support. The goal of this programme was to check for safety and identify people with obvious urgent basic needs (LOOK), which involves approaching people who may need support, asking about people's needs, concerns and listening to people and helping them to feel calm (LISTEN). The programme also help people address basic needs and access to services, help people cope with problems, give information and connecting people with their loved ones and social support (LINK). The students practiced the principal of LOOK, LISTEN and LINK to identify people with serious immediate need and serious distress.

With this goal, 40 students from TISS and 20 students from NSSW received PFA training from TISS resource persons. NSSW as a local partner of the programme identified six villages which were among the most affected

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by the earthquake. Then, six teams of students from TISS and NSSW were designated to the villages Sipapokhare, Bhotsipa, Bhimtar of Sindhupalchowk, Naglebare of Kathmandu and Samjong Chautara and Mulpani of Dhading. Each group of students lived either in broken or cracked schools or in the tents. The logistics had been arranged with local contacts. The programme was successfully completed with nine wards of each village providing their services to almost 45000 people.

Psychosocial First Aid cannot be provided in a manner that is homogenous and requires an interactive framework that begins with the community. Hence while performing the task; students initiated their relationship building with the task that was important to the people and the community at that moment. Students helped to clear the debris of schools, break down the unstable structures and assisted the people in health camps and other agencies link up.

After the completion of the programme, NSSW is still working in one of the villages to help the community in reintegration and rehabilitation process. Social work scholars have documented that social work is the profession that claims to intervene to enhance people's well-being and there is no doubt that disaster management is an integral part of 21st century social work but sadly, the profession is only beginning to carve a niche to respond to disasters. This disaster response of NSSW is one such social work intervention carving its niche in Nepal to enhance the wellness of communities at despair and devastation.

These joint interventions is one of many of NSSW efforts to collaborate, learn and benefit from each other's strength and at the same time bring positive impact to the community and people. The experiential learning that happened with the earthquake affected communities in 21 days is immense to the students and the impact is very positive to the communities.



University-Community Engagement Programme: **Rural Single Mothers Entrepreneurship Programme (RusMEP)**

...Focusing on the need of the single mothers,
 RuSMEP training programme is well-designed into
 three phases so as to suit the needs of the single mothers...

Rural Single Mothers Entrepreneurship Programme (RuSMEP) is a programme proposed by the Northern Corridor Research Centre, UUM (NCRC) to be organized under the APUCEN Driven University-Community Engagement Project. This programme was approved on October 2015 by the the APUCEN Project Selection Committee.

The main objectives of RuSMEP are :

- To identify single mothers who have potential to become successful entrepreneurs.
- To examine the level of entrepreneurial readiness among single mothers.
- To disseminate knowledge and information regarding entrepreneurship development.
- To train and guide the single mothers with the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills
- To increase the income and to overcome the incident of poverty among single mothers.

Focusing on the need of the single mothers, the RuSMEP training programme is well-designed into three phases so as to suit the needs of the single mothers. The first phase is a one day workshop to disseminate knowledge and information regarding entrepreneurship development. The second phase is Pre-and-post psychometric test to identify the level of entrepreneurship readiness among the single mothers and the third phase, is coaching and mentoring the selected participants among single mothers to become successful entrepreneur with knowledge and skill.

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The Phase One workshop of was conducted by NCRC, UUM on 22nd October 2015 in collaboration with the Cooperative And Entrepreneurship Development Institute, UUM (CEDI) with the theme of "Strengthening Entrepreneurial Potential of Rural Single Mothers". The workshop was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato' Suraya Yaacob, Chairman of the Kedah State Committee on Development of Women, Family And Community. The main aims of the workshop are to identify single mothers who have the potential to become successful entrepreneurs and to examine the level of entrepreneurial readiness among them. A total of 150 rural single mothers from selected areas of Kedah participated in this workshop. During the first phase, a total of 30 single mothers were selected for the next phase. All three phases are targeted to be completed by December 2016.



RuSMEP is expected to provide some positive impact on the community such as to increase the number of single mother entrepreneurs with knowledge and skill and also to increase the level of income among the participants in the project. The outcomes of the programme include the development of a database for single mothers and the development of an entrepreneurship training module for single mothers. ■



Service Learning in **Thammasat University,** THAILAND

S

ervice learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. According to this meaning, Thammasat University provides and supports various facilities to achieve the aim of community strength, civic responsibility as well as students' experiences for their academic and personal development. All activities have been carried out with the concept of sustainable achievements.

Successful projects, examples, are Volunteer Teacher, Funny Science Day, Red Cross Youth Volunteer Project and Pre-Thammasat Days. All these projects were organized by students volunteer and participated by exchange students from other countries. In addition, service learning for students is included in the University's curriculum to achieve professional development among students before their graduation, i.e., Legal Profession subject or accounting management subject.

Thammasat University is expecting to organize the International Conference in Service Learning in November 2016 with APUCEN as the co-organiser. This conference will be an important forum where all researchers are able to exchange their experiences and seek collaborations.



USM-RICD Wheelchair Project

Prevalence of disability in the Asia-Pacific region ranges from 1% in Laos to 18.5% in Australia. The Malaysian government has enforced the Persons with Disabilities Act (2008) to help people with disabilities in Malaysia in terms of registration, protection, rehabilitation, development and their well-being.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) through its Division of Industry and Community Network (DICN) had worked with Rajanagindra Child Development Institute (RICD) in this project. The RICD Wheelchair Project was founded in year 2000 by Doctor Samai Sirithongthaworn and in year 2013, RICD had initiated a project called "USM-RICD Wheelchair Project".

Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Centre (Bangi, Selangor) is an institution under the Department of Social Welfare that provides services to the disabled (OKU) through vocational training and medical rehabilitation. They have collaborated with USM and sponsored this project. The key focus of the project is to provide an opportunity for the patients to be active and independent in terms of mobility. Out of the 50 sets of wheelchairs which were given by RICD, 30 sets were donated to receivers from the states of Pahang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan. The other 20 sets were donated upon request. This is the third time the USM-RICD Wheelchair Project had distributed wheelchairs for the needy.

USM, being an active member of APUCEN has implemented its social responsibility through this project. This project is believed to have changed the lives of disabled people. They will be able to move around comfortably as the wheelchairs were specially modified and tailored for each recipient. It enables them to be active and are able to get involved in daily activities without the fear of falling down or feeling painful.

... **30** sets were donated to receivers from the states of Pahang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan. The other **20** sets were donated upon request....



APUCEN
Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network




The 6th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting

The 6th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting was held on 17th June 2015 in Chiang Mai University, Thailand. The meeting was attended by a total of 23 delegates from 11 institutions of higher learning. The meeting was chaired by the President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman. The Council Members of APUCEN agreed to establish APUCEN Student Chapter@University at each of its member universities.

The various agendas discussed were to chart the direction of APUCEN and to enhance international collaboration in community engagement among members. The meeting was attended by representatives from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Thammasat University, Chiang Mai University, Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan, Australian College of Applied Psychology, Universitas Andalas and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. A total of 12 agendas and community engagement projects were discussed, which included community-based research, service learning, empowering youth and rebuild shelters. ■





A way forward for
APUCEN
by bringing students from
different institutions
together for **EXCHANGE,**
COLLABORATION and
EDUCATION

TO TAKE-OFF

**Flagship project University
for competition Level**

**Flagship project Student
for competition Level**



APUCEN
*Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network*

Student Chapter@University

The President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman proposed the APUCEN Student Chapter@University in the APUCEN network during the 6th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting held in Chiang Mai University in 17th June 2015. The objective of the APUCEN Student Chapter@University is to promote the engagement of university students in community engagement activities and the practice of knowledge transfer. This will enable the engagement network to be holistic.

The APUCEN Student Chapter@University shall have roles in all APUCEN's community engagement projects and activities as well as their own activities. It shall also promote membership by acquainting the student body with ideas, purposes and objectives of APUCEN. APUCEN Student Chapter@University is expected to bring in more beneficial projects and activities to APUCEN. ■

...The APUCEN Student Chapter@ University shall have roles in all APUCEN's community engagement projects and activities as well as their own activities...



APUCEN
Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network

acap **keep learning**
Australian College of
Applied Psychology

The 7th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting

...the President welcomed two new members to APUCEN, namely MMI Care Association and Naresuan University (Thailand), which bring APUCEN membership to **78** members from **18** countries...

The 7th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting was held on 4th November 2015 in Mantra on View Hotel, Australia. The meeting was attended by a total of 23 delegates from 12 institutions of higher learning. The meeting was chaired by the President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman. Griffith University has been appointed as the new council member replacing University of Southern Queensland.

The President welcomed two new members to APUCEN, namely MMI Care Association and Naresuan University (Thailand), which brings APUCEN membership to 78 members from 18 countries. APUCEN is very keen to implement 'low cost projects' with high impact to benefit the underprivileged community at large.

In the meeting, all council members presented the progress of their current community engagement projects related to APUCEN in their respective countries. Among the important matters raised to the council members was the launching of the APUCEN Trust Fund in year 2016. APUCEN is moving towards getting corporate members to be involved in Community-Engagement activities in the region. APUCEN has highlighted its support for the projects in the Philippines, Cambodia and Nepal, all members were urged to be partners of these activities. ■

Venue DEWAN SENAT USIM
BANGUNAN CANSALORI
UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM
MALAYSIA BANDAR BARU NILAI

Date 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

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The 1st APUCEN Board of **Trustee Meeting**

APUCEN
Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network



The 1st APUCEN Board of Trustee Meeting was hosted by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Malaysia on 15th September 2015 at the USIM Senate Hall, Chancellery Building, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan. The meeting was attended by all the APUCEN Board Trustee members from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP), Chiang Mai University (CMU), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). This meeting was chaired by the President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss about raising funds through APUCEN members and the official launching of APUCEN Board of Trustee in early 2016. ■

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The 5th APUCEN@ Malaysia Meeting

The 5th APUCEN@Malaysia Meeting was hosted by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia on 18th August 2015 at the UMT Senate Hall, College Academic Building, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. The meeting was attended by 18 delegates from 15 Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The meeting was chaired by the APUCEN@Malaysia Chairperson, Prof. Dato' Dr. See Ching Mey, who is also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Division of Industry and Community Network (DICN), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Prof. Dr. Mohd Effendy Abd Wahid welcomed all the delegates and gave his welcoming speech before the meeting started.

Three proposals of Community Engagement (CE) projects were shortlisted, namely Empowering Youth for Drug-Free Community 2015 by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Community Project at "Sekolah Suluh Budiman" in Cambodia by Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSII) and Rural Single Mothers Entrepreneurship Programme by Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). Members were engaged in active discussion, sharing of experiences on community engagement projects and activities carried out by their institutions. ■



...The meeting was attended by **18** delegates from **15** Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)...



The 4th APUCEN Publicity Meeting

The 4th APUCEN@Malaysia Publicity meeting was held on 18th August 2015 at the UMT Senate Hall, College Academic Building, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dato' Dr. See Ching Mey, Chairperson of APUCEN@Malaysia and attended by four committee members, namely AIMST University, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). The meeting focused on several plans to promote the visibility of APUCEN and to increase its membership to particular countries such as China, India and Korea. Prospective members were identified and recommended by the committee members. APUCEN is encouraging private companies to be APUCEN's corporate members. AIMST University, USM, UTM and UUM will lead in inviting the companies for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

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APUCEN

*Asia-Pacific University-Community
Engagement Network*

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