



**UMS**  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

@www.ums.edu.my

# Sustainable Development Goals

**REPORT 2024 - 2025**



**ADVISOR**

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Saffree Jeffree

**CHIEF EDITORS**

Prof. Ir. Dr. Nurmin Bolong

Dr. Tan Soo Fun

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Dr. Debra Toria Anak Nipo

Nur Syazwani Izzati Jumat

Sylvencent Pokhan

Suraidah Punimin

**DATA AND EVIDENCE CONTRIBUTORS**

*Jawatankuasa Strategik Kelestarian, SDG & ESG (JKKSSE)*

All faculties, centres, institutes, and departments of UMS, for their valuable contributions and continued support in providing data and information for this report.

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

Azmawati Amarasikin



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**Published by:**

Strategic Management Centre

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)

Level 6, South Block, Chancellery Building

Jalan UMS, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Tel: +6088-320625

Email: [smc@ums.edu.my](mailto:smc@ums.edu.my)

Website: [www.ums.edu.my](http://www.ums.edu.my)

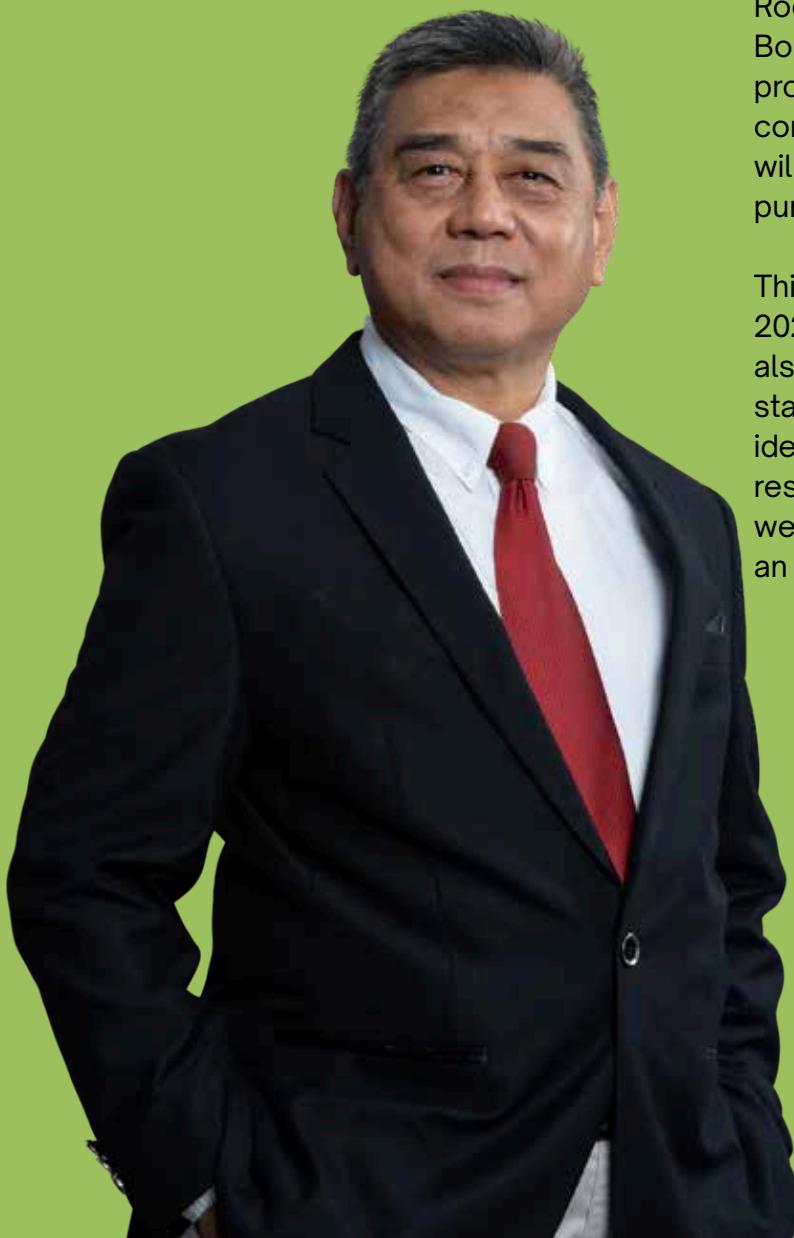
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# Foreword by the Vice-Chancellor



At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), we believe that every step toward sustainability begins with awareness, compassion, and shared responsibility. Rooted in the natural and cultural richness of Borneo, our university carries a special calling to protect what sustains us, to empower our communities, and to nurture future generations who will continue this journey with courage and purpose.

This Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report 2024–2025 reflects not only our achievements but also our collective spirit — the dedication of our staff, students, researchers, and partners who turn ideas into real, lasting impact. Through education, research, innovation, and community engagement, we continue to prove that sustainability is not just an aspiration, but a living practice at UMS.

To every member of the UMS community and our partners, I offer my sincere thanks. Together, your vision and perseverance have made UMS more than a place of learning. It has become a living example of sustainability and shared humanity.

Let us move forward together, guided by the belief that even the smallest action, when done with purpose, can shape a brighter, greener, and more compassionate future for all.

**Profesor Datuk Dr. Kasim Hj. Mansor**

# Preface by the Assistant Vice- Chancellor

This Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report 2024–2025 reflects our ongoing journey toward building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. Guided by the UMS Strategic Plan – Green Campus (2023–2027) and the Sustainability and Climate Action Policy (2023–2030), this report captures the university’s collective efforts to translate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into meaningful action —through our education, research, operations, and community engagement.

As a university located in the heart of Borneo, UMS is deeply connected to its people and environment. Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond campus boundaries. It reaches rural villages, coastal communities, and urban centres across Sabah. Through initiatives such as the Rural Water Supply (RuWaS) project, U-Science Discovery Centre, Hospital Universiti Malaysia Sabah (HUMS), and outreach programmes like Professor@School, Prospek, and STEM4U, we continue to make real, lasting impact in improving lives and protecting the environment.

For UMS, sustainability defines who we are and what we stand for. It is a collective journey that unites our community in purpose and action. Through every decision and initiative, we strive to nurture human potential, safeguard the planet’s resources, and build a future where growth and compassion coexist in harmony.

Looking to the future, this report reminds us of how far we have come and what more we can achieve together. It is a promise of hope and shared responsibility, to continue building a more sustainable, compassionate, and vibrant tomorrow for all.



**Profesor Dr. Mohammad Saffree Jeffree**



# Leading Towards Innovative Societies

## **VISION**

"Strives to be an innovative university of global standing."

## **MISSION**

UMS strives to achieve academic excellence and international recognition through its attention to learning and teaching, research and publications, social services and balance in knowledge specialization. The university also prioritizes the personal growth of its students, resulting in more significant innovation and productivity for the benefit of society and the nation as a whole.

## **VALUE**

Dynamic, Sustainable, Integrity, Justice, Happiness

# Introduction

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) stands proudly as Malaysia's ninth public university, founded in 1994 under the Universities and University Colleges Act 1974 and governed by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE). Nestled in the heart of Borneo, overlooking the South China Sea and surrounded by one of the world's richest ecosystems, UMS is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge between nature, knowledge, and community. Operating within Malaysia's federal framework and in harmony with the Sabah State Government's land and environmental policies, UMS embodies the spirit of balance between development and conservation.

As a comprehensive university, UMS offers diverse programmes through 13 faculties; covering wide range of disciplines including engineering, science and technology, medicine and health sciences, business, arts, and humanities. With around 70% undergraduate and 30% postgraduate students, UMS provides a vibrant environment that nurtures young talents and supports advanced research for community and national development.

UMS's governance model brings together voices from the federal and state governments, industry leaders, and academia, ensuring that the university remains both globally competitive and locally grounded. Guided by the UMS Strategic Plan – Green Campus (2023–2027), the EcoCampus Framework, and the Sustainability and Climate Action Policy (2023–2030), UMS integrates sustainability into every aspect of its journey; from governance and campus operations to teaching, research, and community engagement. This commitment aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), translating global aspirations into local actions.

This SDG Report 2024–2025 celebrates that journey, our collective efforts, milestones, and aspirations. As UMS continues to build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.



## KOMPLEKS DEWAN KULIAH PUSAT KE-2





# Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Education and Empowerment

Poverty is not just a number; it reflects unrealised dreams and unequal opportunities.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), every such silence becomes a call to act.

Guided by compassion and the belief that education transforms lives, UMS strives to ensure that no one is left behind because of financial hardship or circumstance. Through its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty), UMS turns knowledge into opportunity and hardship into resilience.

Across campus and communities, UMS's actions focus on inclusion, empowerment, and dignity in creating real pathways out of poverty through education and skills development.

## 1. EDUCATION ACCESS AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

UMS upholds the principle that education is a right, not a privilege.

**Program MENITI Kasih** represents UMS's core belief that access to education is a matter of equity, not charity. Through a progressive cost-sharing model in which the government subsidises between 86 % and 95 % of tuition costs, financial barriers for low-income families are greatly reduced. For example, the government contributes about RM 61,232 per Science and IT student and RM 233,590 per Medicine student. Complementary schemes such as **Bantuan Sara Hidup Mahasiswa** and **Tabung Prihatin UMS** further close the gap, ensuring that capable students from B40 households can pursue their studies with dignity.

## Integrated Sponsorship and Student Welfare Assistance:

**A Network of Care.** Through the Bahagian Kebajikan dan Kewangan Pelajar (BKKP) under the Student Affairs Department (HEPA), UMS coordinates a comprehensive network of aid covering tuition, health, and emergencies. External sponsorships from PTPTN, Yayasan Sabah, and corporate partners complement internal schemes such as the UMS Financial Aid Programme, Khairat Kematiian, Bantuan Kesihatan, Bantuan Kecemasan, and Insurans Pelajar. These initiatives ensure that no student's education is derailed by financial or personal crises while fostering a campus culture of empathy and solidarity.

**Bantuan Ehsan UMS** - Compassion in times of crisis. Administered by HEPA, Bantuan Ehsan UMS provides immediate emergency relief particularly food, accommodation, or financial support especially to students facing sudden hardship. Each case is handled confidentially and swiftly, ensuring that help reaches those most in need. This initiative embodies UMS's principle that compassion is not an exception to policy; it is the policy.

**Food Assistance Programme** – Nourishing Body and Mind. Since 2018, the **Campus Food Bank** and **Dapur Siswa UMS** have provided thousands of students with nutritious meals and pantry supplies through campus kitchens, self-service stations, and food vouchers. Supported by staff, alumni, NGOs, and corporate donors, these initiatives ensure that no student has to choose between food and education, redefining welfare as care and belonging.



**Free Transportation** – Mobility as a right, not a privilege. To ease the cost of commuting, UMS provides free bus services connecting residential zones with the main campus. In 2023, RM 4.9 million was invested in eight new buses, benefitting thousands of daily commuters while promoting low-carbon mobility aligned with UMS's sustainability goals.

## 2. EDUCATION FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UMS empowers students to turn knowledge into action by equipping them with skills, creativity, and confidence to build sustainable sources of income and contribute to community well-being.

**Inkubator Aquapreneur Siswa UMS 2024** – The Inkubator Aquapreneur Siswa UMS 2024 is a collaborative effort between the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development (CEDeC) and the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT). It embodies UMS's belief that education should empower lives and create opportunities beyond the classroom. The programme equips students, especially those from low-income backgrounds, with practical skills in aquaculture and aquaponics using modern tools such as IoT-based water-quality systems. Over the course of a year, participants learn fish farming, hatchery management, business planning, and entrepreneurship that turn academic learning into hands-on experience. More than just technical training, the incubator builds confidence and self-reliance. Graduates have gone on to start small aquaculture businesses that not only provide income but also strengthen food security in their communities. Through this initiative, UMS shows how education can open doors to sustainable livelihoods in transforming students from job seekers into job creators.

## 3. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Beyond its campus, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) extends the spirit of inclusivity and empowerment into rural and coastal communities, where poverty often intersects with geography, livelihood, and opportunity. Through the Pusat Kelestarian Libatsama Masyarakat (PKLM), UMS transforms academic knowledge into meaningful action that helps individuals and families build better lives.

Between 2023 and 2025, UMS mobilised RM 3.43 million across 203 community-based projects in 78 villages by improving livelihoods, enhancing food security, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening youth and women's leadership. Each initiative is guided by one principle: knowledge must serve humanity.

**Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP)** – Empowering Rural Transformation. At the heart of UMS's outreach is the Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP), which connects research and innovation with real community needs. Academics, students, and villagers work together to improve agriculture, eco-tourism, small business, and digital literacy. By translating ideas into income-generating tools, KTP helps families achieve self-reliance and restores dignity through shared knowledge.

**Program Pendayaan Komuniti @ UniMADANI** – Empowering Through Partnership. With RM 1.09 million supporting over 40 projects across Sabah, Program Pendayaan Komuniti @ UniMADANI uplifts women, youth, and local cooperatives through micro-enterprise development, home-based food production, craft-making, and digital entrepreneurship. This initiative embodies the spirit of Malaysia MADANI; where education, economy, and ethics come together to strengthen community resilience.

**Kampung Angkat Madani** – Building Self-Reliant Villages. The Kampung Angkat Madani initiative pairs UMS faculties with rural villages to co-develop self-sustaining models of growth in agro-technology, eco-tourism, waste management, and education. With RM 1 million invested, each faculty acts as a mentor and partner — turning villages into living classrooms and innovation hubs where learning flows both ways.

**Dana Kelestarian Masyarakat (DKM)** – Fostering Social Innovation. Through the Dana Kelestarian Masyarakat (DKM), UMS provides RM 500,000 in seed funding to support social innovation and sustainable livelihood projects led by researchers, students, and local entrepreneurs. From renewable-energy adoption to green enterprise models and youth training, DKM turns small ideas into lasting impact for communities in need.

**University for Society (U4S)** – Students as Agents of Change. The University for Society (U4S) programme empowers UMS students to apply what they learn directly within communities. Supported by RM 150,000, U4S projects tackle issues such as waste management, eco-friendly business, and digital access — helping students become active contributors to local development while nurturing empathy, teamwork, and civic responsibility.



Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP)



KTP - Production of Mushroom Blocks



KTP - Vegetable Fertigation and Aquaponics



KTP - Clay Batik



UMS Mobile Clinics : Bringing Healthcare to the Community

### **Upaya KPT @ Sepanggar & Jelajah Pendidikan Tinggi @ Sabah**

– Education Outreach for All. UMS also leads outreach programmes such as Upaya KPT @ Sepanggar and Jelajah Pendidikan Tinggi @ Sabah, reaching rural schools and youth across the state. With RM 290,752 allocated, these initiatives introduce students to higher education opportunities, scholarships, and future careers. By connecting aspiration with access, UMS inspires the next generation to dream beyond their limitations.

### **CONCLUSION: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, SUSTAINING FUTURES**

Through these collective efforts, UMS redefines the role of a university that not only as a centre of learning, but as a partner in community progress. Working hand in hand with government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector, UMS ensures every project is part of a broader ecosystem of change. From the coasts of Kudat to the highlands of Nabawan, UMS's presence continues to empower families, nurture youth, and build resilient, self-sustaining communities, proving that empowerment is the truest path out of poverty.

## **Impact at a glance**

- Program MENITI Kasih: Government subsidies covering 86–95 % of tuition costs, easing the burden for students from B40 households.
- Program Siswa Sulung 3.0: Supported 80 first-generation students with RM 483,000 in financial aid; 18 students with special needs received Bantuan Pendidikan Awal (BPA) grants.
- Food Assistance Programme: Campus Food Bank, Dapur Siswa UMS, and voucher schemes serve thousands of students each semester with nutritious meals.
- Free Transportation: Investment of RM 4.9 million in eight new buses providing free daily transport for students across campus and residential zones.
- Integrated Sponsorship & Student Welfare Assistance: Comprehensive financial-aid network through BKKP-HEPA, supported by PTPTN, Yayasan Sabah, and corporate partners.
- Bantuan Ehsan UMS: Immediate emergency relief for students facing sudden hardship due to crisis or illness.
- Inkubator Aquapreneur Siswa UMS 2024: Trained students in IoT-based aquaculture and aquaponics; several graduates launched small-scale aquaculture businesses.
- Community Empowerment: Over RM 3.43 million mobilised across 203 projects in 78 villages, enhancing rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and digital inclusion.
- Program Pendayaan Komuniti @ UniMADANI & Kampung Angkat Madani: Empowered 40 + projects promoting micro-enterprise, eco-tourism, and self-reliant communities.
- University for Society (U4S): Student-led community innovation projects with RM 150,000 support, turning classrooms into platforms of empathy and impact.



EPUNG PROPOLIS  
Heterotrigona itama  
(100% TULEN)





# Zero Hunger: Harvesting Change for a Hunger-Free Future

Hunger is not just the absence of food. It is the absence of opportunity, dignity, and fairness.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the fight against hunger is woven into daily life. Guided by Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), UMS works to ensure food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture across campus and communities. Every shared meal, every campus garden, and every outreach effort represents one vision: a Sabah where no one studies or lives in hunger.

## 1. ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND STUDENT WELL-BEING

UMS places student welfare at the centre of its sustainability agenda, ensuring that financial hardship never leads to hunger or malnutrition. The university's integrated food-support network; from subsidised meals to welfare assistance. This ensures that food is treated not as a privilege, but as a basic human right.

**UMS Food Bank** – Sharing Care, Reducing Hunger. Established in 2018 and managed by the Student Affairs Department (HEP), the UMS Food Bank provides essential food supplies such as rice, canned goods, and hygiene items to students in need. Applications are handled confidentially through the UMS portal to preserve dignity. Faculty-based food pantries and volunteer-led initiatives extend its reach, creating a compassionate ecosystem of care that supports thousands of students each semester.

**RM3.50 Subsidised Meal Programme** – Nutrition Within Reach. Through a collaboration with campus cafeteria operators, UMS offers balanced and affordable meals for only RM 3.50.

Each meal includes rice, vegetables, and protein which promote health and fairness in daily living. Nutritionists from the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP) monitor menu quality, ensuring every serving meets national nutrition standards.

**Healthy Plate, Vegetarian, and Mindful Eating Initiatives.** UMS also promotes healthy, sustainable diets through the Healthy Plate Malaysia campaign and daily vegetarian options across dining halls such as Kolej E, FSSK, and BMRI cafeterias. Nutrition Month Malaysia events, cooking demonstrations, and exhibitions nurture health awareness and responsible consumption habits among students and staff.

**Food Safety and Nutrition Grading.** Campus cafeterias are regularly audited under Malaysia's national food hygiene and nutrition grading system to ensure safety, transparency, and quality. These measures safeguard student health while modelling good governance in food service management.

## 2. COMPASSION IN ACTION: FEEDING BODY AND SOUL

UMS's Zero Hunger initiatives are powered by a spirit of compassion and community which feeding both body and soul.

**Program Breakfast Jom!** – Starting the Day Right. During examination weeks, the *Program Breakfast Jom!* initiative provides free breakfasts to ensure no student begins their day of learning hungry. Simple but meaningful, it reflects UMS's understanding that nutrition fuels academic success.



RM3.50 Subsidised Meal Programme



Program Breakfast Jom!



Healthy Plate, Vegetarian, and Mindful Eating Initiatives



Infak Dapur Rahmah



Program Dendang Perantau & Semarak Kasih Ramadan



UMS Care Programme



Bah, Sungkai Kita Bubur Lambuk

**Infaq Dapur Rahmah** – Faith in Service. Led by the UMS Mosque (PIUMS), Infaq Dapur Rahmah channels voluntary salary deductions and donations into free communal meals, food packs, and iftar programmes. This faith-driven effort strengthens solidarity and reminds the campus community that generosity is a daily act of sustainability.

**Bah, Sungkai Kita Bubur Lambuk** – Unity Through Sharing. Every Ramadan, staff and students come together to cook and distribute thousands of servings of bubur lambuk to the campus and nearby communities. What begins as a shared meal becomes a message of unity — that hunger is best defeated together.

**Program Dendang Perantau & Semarak Kasih Ramadan** – A Home Away from Home. Through Program Dendang Perantau, UMS celebrates festive seasons with students who cannot return home, sharing meals and duit raya with warmth and inclusion. Similarly, Semarak Kasih Ramadan brings the Vice-Chancellor and leadership team together with students, guards, and essential staff to share iftar — reminding everyone that care and gratitude unite the UMS family.

### 3. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Beyond campus, UMS brings the fight against hunger to Sabah's rural and coastal communities by empowering households to grow and sustain their own food. These efforts are implemented through the Pusat Kelestarian Libatsama Masyarakat (PKLM) in collaboration with local councils, NGOs, and government agencies.

Between 2024 and 2025, UMS invested over RM 2.6 million in more than 45 community projects across 11 districts, promoting urban farming, aquaculture, and nutrition awareness. Each initiative helps families build self-reliance and resilience.

**Smart Hydroponics for Sustainable Agriculture (BAKAT Programme).** In partnership with the Ministry of Defence under Ekonomi MADANI, the Smart Hydroponics Community Project in MAWILLA 2 Sandakan trains participants — including armed-forces families and youth — in hydroponic vegetable cultivation.

The approach conserves water and land, creating efficient, modern, and profitable farming systems.

**Kelulut Honey Entrepreneurship** – Sweet Sustainability. Guided by UMS experts, rural participants learn stingless-bee farming and produce value-added products such as balms, soaps, and honey-based goods. This initiative combines environmental stewardship with economic empowerment.

**Smart Carbon-Free Hydroponics** – Growing Futures. At the Royal Malaysian Navy Base in Kota Kinabalu, UMS introduced carbon-free hydroponic systems powered by renewable energy. Families now grow vegetables sustainably while reducing energy use and household costs.

**Integrated Farming: Fertigation, Mushroom Cultivation, and Solar Energy.** In Kota Belud, UMS promotes circular-economy practices by integrating fertigation systems, mushroom cultivation, and solar technology. This model turns agricultural by-products into income sources, proving that sustainability and profitability can grow together.

### 4. STUDENT WELFARE MONITORING AND OUTREACH

UMS recognises that student welfare is best protected through care that is both compassionate and informed. Through the Student Affairs Department (HEP) and the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP), the university continuously monitors cost-of-living, meal access, and nutrition among students to identify those at risk of food insecurity early.

Data collected from these surveys help refine aid programmes such as the Food Bank, Subsidised Meal Scheme, and Breakfast Jom! initiative, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most. Faculty and student volunteers also conduct regular outreach visits, offering guidance, mentorship, and a listening ear.

This proactive approach reflects UMS's belief that caring for students means more than providing food. It means understanding their challenges, ensuring their dignity, and helping them thrive both academically and personally.



Smart Hydroponics (BAKAT Programme)



Smart Carbon-Free Hydroponics



Integrated Farming (Kota Belud)



Composting for Circular Agriculture: Turning Waste into Worth



Sustainable Poultry Farming



## 5. EXTENDING CARE TO UMS STAFF

Compassion extends beyond students. Through UMS Care, KEKAUMAS, and KESUMBA, staff facing hardship receive food and financial assistance. Emergency funds also support employees affected by illness or disasters which reinforcing that sustainability begins with caring for one another.

## CONCLUSION: FEEDING HOPE, NOURISHING FUTURES

At UMS, the fight against hunger is deeply human. It lives in the student who studies with a full stomach, the farmer who learns modern cultivation, and the volunteer who shares a meal with a stranger. Through empathy, partnership, and action, UMS continues to sow the seeds of sustainability. Harvesting not just crops, but dignity, unity, and hope for a hunger-free future.

## Impact at a glance

- UMS Food Bank: Provides daily food essentials to thousands of students each semester through campus and faculty-based distribution points.
- RM 3.50 Subsidised Meal Programme: Offers balanced meals at below cost through collaboration with cafeteria operators and nutritionists.
- Healthy Plate & Vegetarian Options: Daily vegetarian and vegan menus across major cafeterias; nutrition education via Healthy Plate Malaysia campaign.
- Program Breakfast Jom!: Free breakfast during exam weeks ensuring students start their day nourished and focused.
- Infaq Dapur Rahmah: Faith-based initiative providing free meals and iftar packs funded by voluntary salary deductions and donations.
- Bah, Sungkai Kita Bubur Lambuk: Annual Ramadan event distributing thousands of servings to campus and nearby communities.
- Program Dendang Perantau & Semarak Kasih Ramadan: Festive community meals uniting leadership, staff, and students, especially those far from home.
- Community Food Security Projects: Over RM 2.6 million invested (2023–2025) in 45 community projects across 11 districts promoting home gardening, aquaculture, and sustainable agriculture.
- Smart Hydroponics (BAKAT Programme): Training for armed-forces families and youth in modern, water-saving crop cultivation.
- Kelulut Honey Entrepreneurship: Introduced stingless-bee cultivation creating new green micro-enterprises.
- Smart Carbon-Free Hydroponics: Renewable-energy-powered vegetable production at Royal Malaysian Navy Base, Kota Kinabalu.
- Integrated Farming (Kota Belud): Fertigation, mushroom cultivation, and solar integration projects turning waste into income.
- Student Welfare Monitoring & Outreach: Continuous data-driven welfare tracking to detect food insecurity early and refine support systems.
- UMS Care, KEKAUMAS & KESUMBA: Staff food and financial assistance programmes strengthening workplace solidarity.





# Good Health and Well-Being: One Health for All

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), good health is more than a goal. It is a shared commitment to hope, healing, and humanity. Guided by the One Health approach, UMS integrates human, animal, and environmental well-being across education, research, and service to the community.

From coastal villages to mountain settlements, UMS brings health awareness, free medical services, and compassion to every corner of Sabah. This ensures that no one is left behind in the pursuit of wellness..

## 1. BRINGING HEALTH TO THE PEOPLE: HUMS2U AND KoSiMM

UMS's Hospital Universiti Malaysia Sabah (HUMS) exemplifies **community-centred healthcare** through outreach initiatives such as HUMS2U and Program Komuniti Sihat, Melihat & Mendengar (KoSiMM). These mobile teams bring medical, dental, pharmacy, and rehabilitation services directly to communities.

In Papar, the HUMS-SPRINT: Path to **Wellness and Success programme** served 213 visitors with health screening, counselling, and free spectacles. On Pulau Mantanani, KoSiMM reached 217 residents and 122 students, while in Kemabong, Tenom, 174 villagers and 128 schoolchildren received eye, ear, and general health checks. In Pitas, HUMS medical and dental specialists joined NGOs and professional bodies to deliver health consultations, oral care, and pharmacy counselling.

By bringing doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to rural communities, UMS transforms access into equity and ensuring quality healthcare is not limited by distance or income.

## 2. PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVING AND NUTRITION

UMS promotes preventive health and nutrition education across Sabah through outreach and campus-based initiatives.

**Program Jelajah Sembang Diet (JESDIET)** - Led by the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP), JESDIET reaches rural areas such as Kota Marudu and Tambunan with free health screenings, senamrobik, cooking demonstrations, and talks on balanced diets. Participants learn that healthy eating is achievable even on a limited budget.

**Sajian Sihat, Generasi Hebat** - At SK Melalia, Sipitang, postgraduate students in the Master of Public Health programme organised the Amazing Nutri-Walk Challenge, interactive nutrition games, and school hydroponic gardening. These activities teach children the Suku-Suku Separuh healthy plate concept while linking learning to daily practice.

On campus, awareness events such as **World Diabetes Day, Kidney Run, and the UMS-YKN Dialysis Family Day** connect health education with movement ; turning physical activity into a celebration of life and wellness.

## 3. HYGIENE, WASH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

UMS strengthens disease prevention and environmental health awareness through hygiene and sanitation education.

The **HUMS Infection Control Unit** promotes proper handwashing practices among students during Global Handwashing Day campaigns across residential colleges. At SK Bawang, Tamparuli, the **AMR-WASH Programme** teaches children the link between hygiene and antimicrobial resistance using games and interactive demonstrations.

The **Malaria-Free Community Initiative (MFCI)** in Telipok Ria helps families identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.



KPT Prihatin Madani 2024



HUMS2U & KoSiMM



Program Jelajah Sembang Diet (JESDIET):



Annual Mental Health Awareness Week



A University that Goes to the People

Complementary programmes such as Wildlife Warriors and Exploring Toxicology educate schoolchildren about how ecosystem degradation affects both wildlife and human health; reinforcing the One Health connection.

#### **4. MENTAL HEALTH, INCLUSION, AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

UMS's approach to health includes the mind and spirit. At SK Kindu, Tuaran, the **Mental Health Day programme** helps children recognise emotions, manage stress, and seek help when needed.

Through the Department of Psychiatry and Health Psychology (HUMS), UMS psychiatrists conducted **International Mental Health Training** in Dili, Timor-Leste (2024), equipping 27 counsellors and social workers with skills in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

**HUMS Hearts & Heroes @ Down Syndrome** — Celebrating Ability and Belonging. At Pantai ODEC, this inclusive outreach united specialists, students, parents, and children with Down Syndrome for a day of joy and care. Activities like senamrobik, sukaneka, colouring, face painting, and clown performances created laughter and connection, while free screenings and counselling supported families. More than a celebration, it promoted early intervention, awareness, and acceptance. A true reflection of UMS's belief that every child deserves access to health and happiness.

Closer to home, initiatives such as **D-Day Cherished Memories with Senior Citizens** at Sri Pritchard, Kinarut, and HUMS Hearts & Heroes @ Down Syndrome at Pantai ODEC bring together specialists, volunteers, and families for health screening, exercise, and play. These moments of connection remind us that good health is about belonging as much as it is about medicine.

#### **5. Family, Community, and Gender Health**

UMS extends its outreach to families through community-based health education and preventive care.

**The Khatan Perdana programme** — held at the Pusat Rawatan Warga UMS and in rural districts such as Tambunan and Nabawan. It offers free circumcision, health checks, and parental counselling, in collaboration with Lembaga Zakat Sabah, MADOCS, and school PTAs.

The **Gender Transformative Education Workshop**, supported by USAID, SEA OHUN, and MyOHUN, empowers UMS students to address gender gaps in access to health, education, and family planning.

Events such as the One Health Neon Run – **Glow & Go** (with nearly 300 participants) and senamrobik activities during JESDIET and Down Syndrome programmes promote inclusivity and active living for all.

#### **CONCLUSION: A UNIVERSITY THAT HEALS AND EMPOWERS**

UMS does not only teach health — it lives it. Across Sabah's coasts, highlands, and islands, staff and students work hand in hand with communities to deliver care, build capacity, and spread hope. Through the One Health framework, UMS continues to bridge human, animal, and environmental well-being. Turning compassion into action and knowledge into healing. Every outreach, screening, and smile affirms one truth: health is not a privilege, but a shared right for all.

## **Impact at a glance**

- HUMS2U & KoSiMM: mobile healthcare to 800 + beneficiaries in Papar, Mantanani, Kemabong, Pitas
- JESDIET & Sajian Sihat: nutrition and lifestyle outreach in multiple rural districts
- Global Handwashing Day & AMR-WASH: hygiene education for hundreds of schoolchildren
- MFCI (Telipok Ria): community-led malaria-prevention initiative
- 27 mental-health professionals trained in Timor-Leste (2024)
- HUMS Hearts & Heroes @ Down Syndrome and D-Day @ Sri Pritchard: inclusive health outreach
- Khatan Perdana: free family health and counselling services in multiple districts
- One Health Neon Run – Glow & Go: ~300 participants promoting active, inclusive living





# Nurturing Knowledge, Shaping Tomorrow

Education is one of the most powerful forces for individual transformation and societal advancement. It empowers people with the knowledge, competencies, and values needed to thrive, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) emphasises this global commitment by calling for inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education for all by ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has lifelong opportunities to learn, grow, and participate actively in shaping a better future.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), education is more than an academic pursuit; it is the foundation of our mission as the University for Society. UMS is deeply committed to nurturing holistic, resilient, and socially responsible graduates through accessible learning pathways, impactful research, and community-centred initiatives. The university further strengthened its contributions to SDG 4 by expanding inclusive education efforts, enhancing digital literacy and access, and deepening community engagement across Sabah and the region. The initiatives below highlight UMS's ongoing commitment to advancing equitable, transformative, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**Professor@School:** Inspiring Young Minds Across Sabah - UMS advances education beyond the classroom through collaborative outreach involving faculties, research centres, and student groups. By bringing university expertise into schools and communities across Sabah, UMS strengthens lifelong learning, STEM engagement, and equitable access to quality education.

As one of UMS's flagship outreach initiatives that connects higher education directly with school communities, Professor@School Conducted in districts such as Kinabatangan, Kota Belud, Sipitang, and Kota Kinabalu, the programme brings professors and researchers into schools to ignite interest in science, technology, and sustainability.

Activities include interactive workshops, laboratory demonstrations, and motivational talks on environmental conservation, marine biodiversity, food sustainability, and digital innovation. Notable highlights include "DIVE INTO STEM: Marine & Aqua Adventure" by BMRI, "Empowering Future Foresters" by the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, and "Science in Everyday Life" at SMK Petagas. Vocational and rural schools also benefitted from hands-on activities such as eco-brick fabrication and sustainable agriculture practices.

**STEM4U@UMS and STEM@School:** Making Science Fun and Accessible - aim to spark students' curiosity and confidence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through engaging and interactive learning. Organised by the U-Science Centre with the Ministry of Education, these programmes bring robotics showcases, coding workshops, and hands-on experiments directly to schools. Students explore renewable energy, digital innovation, and resource sustainability through fun, practical activities that build problem-solving, teamwork, and digital literacy. These initiatives play an important role in strengthening national STEM aspirations and align with SDG 4's goal of inclusive and equitable education.



Professor@School



Scimatech: Road to Success 2025 – Sabah's Leading Science and Technology Showcase

**Scimatech: Road to Success 2025 – Sabah’s Leading Science and Technology Showcase** - Organised by the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, Scimatech: Road to Success 2025 is one of Sabah’s largest science and technology fairs. The event welcomed more than 3,000 students and featured over 30 exhibition booths, laboratory tours, and research showcases. Through direct interactions with scientists, educators, and innovators, students gained exposure to STEM careers and university research culture. The programme strengthened UMS’s role as a leader in science outreach and helped cultivate a new generation of STEM-driven learners—advancing SDG 4’s emphasis on equitable access to quality education.

**SULAM: Service Learning for Community Empowerment** - integrates academic learning with real-world community engagement. Through initiatives such as the Alphabet Animal Safari literacy project at PASTI Manggatal and the Fertigated Agriculture Project in Wallace Bay, Pulau Sebatik, students apply classroom knowledge to address community needs. This experiential learning model develops students’ civic responsibility, leadership, and empathy while delivering tangible benefits to rural communities. As an embodiment of UMS’s University for Society philosophy, SULAM contributes directly to SDG 4 by making education a driver of social change and community resilience.

**Lifelong Learning and Leadership Programmes** - through the Bahagian Kepimpinan dan Pembangunan Bakat (BKEPT), plays a crucial role in advancing professional and community-based education. Programmes such as the annual Karnival Latihan UMS and UMS’s participation in National Training Week (NTW) demonstrate the university’s commitment to human capital development and lifelong learning.

These events, conducted in collaboration with government agencies and NGOs, provide free short courses on leadership, sustainability, digital skills, and personal development. By offering accessible and affordable upskilling opportunities, UMS strengthens community resilience, enhances workforce readiness, and upholds SDG 4’s principle of lifelong learning for all.

**Vocational and Technical Training for Coastal Communities** - The Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) extends specialised technical training to educators, researchers, and coastal communities. Courses on aquaculture technology, coral rehabilitation, marine biodiversity, and environmental monitoring blend practical skills with sustainability principles.

These programmes build local expertise in marine science and support sustainable livelihoods, particularly for island and coastal populations. Through accessible vocational training, BMRI contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

**Digital Skills for All Campaign** - Recognising digital literacy as a prerequisite for modern education and economic participation, UMS launched the Digital Skills for All Campaign to empower rural communities, youth, and women with essential ICT competencies. Delivered through the Bulan Digital initiative and free workshops by Jabatan Digital UMS, participants learn computer fundamentals, online entrepreneurship, and digital safety.

These programmes help close the digital divide, support national digital transformation goals, and build technological confidence among underserved groups. The campaign reinforces SDG 4’s commitment to equitable access to lifelong learning while contributing to SDG 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

**Inclusive Open Educational Resources (iOER) Platform** - UMS leads a national-level initiative to develop and share open-access educational materials through the iOER platform which ensuring that learners of all backgrounds and abilities can access quality resources. Designed with accessibility in mind, the platform includes screen-reader compatibility, captioned videos, and sign-language support. By offering high-quality teaching and learning tools openly, UMS helps break down barriers to education, contributing meaningfully to SDG 4’s vision of inclusive and equitable education.

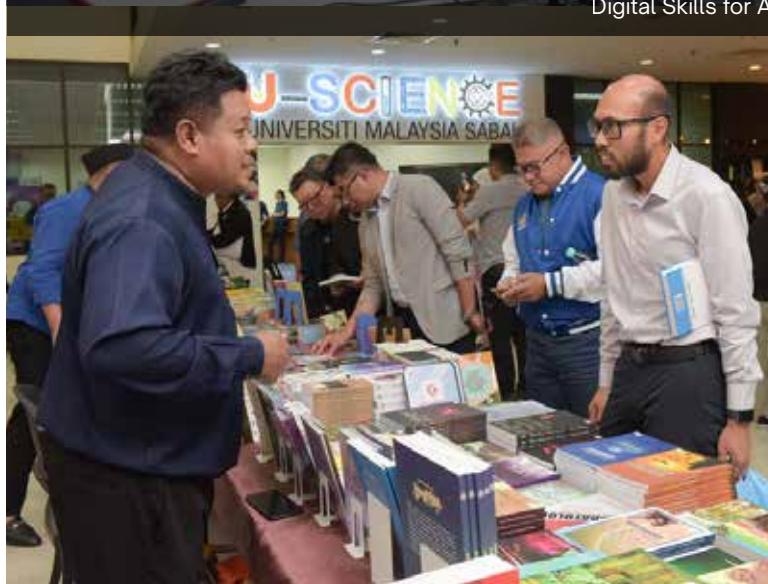
**Open Learning Access for the Public** - Recognising that education doesn’t end with enrolment, UMS offers a suite of open-learning options to the broader community. Through the university’s open-learning portal, members of the public can access MOOCs, recorded lectures, and digital reference materials across multiple disciplines. Complementing this, the UMS Library & Knowledge Hub opens its print and digital collections, ICT facilities, and computer workstations to community users under a “Community Access Programme”. Together, these initiatives help widen access to educational resources and reflect UMS’s commitment to lifelong learning.



STEM4U@UMS and Professor@School



Digital Skills for All Campaign



**Community-Centred Educational Events and Outreach** - UMS brings knowledge-sharing to the public through interactive events such as public lecture series, science fairs, and exhibitions that invite learners of all ages—families, youth and educators alike—to engage with research, innovation and social development. These events serve as a bridge between academia and the wider community, translating university expertise into real-world learning experiences and supporting the inclusive education agenda of SDG 4.

#### **CONCLUSION: EMPOWERING EVERY LEARNER, EVERYWHERE**

Together, these initiatives reflect UMS's deep and enduring commitment to making education a powerful catalyst for individual and community transformation. From inspiring young learners through Professor@School and STEM4U@UMS to engaging thousands through Scimatech, UMS continues to nurture curiosity, confidence, and aspirations in science, technology, and innovation.

Through SULAM and other experiential learning programmes, students gain not only academic knowledge but also leadership, empathy, and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

UMS's educational mission further extends into lifelong learning, upskilling, and vocational training. Ranging from leadership development under BKEPT to specialised marine-science programmes by BMRI that uplift coastal and island communities. At the same time, initiatives such as the Digital Skills for All Campaign, the iOER platform, and open-learning access ensure that quality education remains inclusive, digitally relevant, and available to learners of all ages and backgrounds.

Collectively, these efforts strengthen educational equity, reduce the urban-rural learning gap, and build a more knowledgeable, resilient, and future-ready society. By championing accessible, inclusive, and community-centred learning, UMS continues to advance SDG 4 in empowering every learner, everywhere, and shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for Sabah and beyond..

## **Impact at a glance**

- 10,000+ learners reached through school outreach, STEM programmes, community training, and public events across Sabah.
- 40+ schools engaged through Professor@School, STEM4U@UMS, and STEM@School initiatives statewide.
- 3,000+ students participated in Scimatech: Road to Success 2025, one of Sabah's largest science and technology showcases.
- Hundreds of rural and vocational students benefitted from hands-on STEM and sustainability activities, reducing the urban-rural learning gap.
- Expanded access to lifelong learning, with free and low-cost courses offered via Karnival Latihan UMS, National Training Week (NTW), and BKEPT programmes.
- Specialised marine and environmental skills delivered to coastal and island communities through BMRI's vocational and technical training.
- Hundreds trained in digital literacy through the Digital Skills for All Campaign and Bulan Digital, empowering women, youth, and rural populations.
- 500+ open educational resources (OER) made accessible via the iOER platform, supporting inclusive and barrier-free learning.
- Open-learning portals and library access broadened educational opportunities for the public, reinforcing UMS's role as a lifelong learning hub.
- Community engagement strengthened through public lectures, science fairs, exhibitions, and outreach events connecting families, youth, and educators with UMS expertise.
- Enhanced leadership, civic responsibility, and social awareness among UMS students through SULAM and service-learning projects.
- Strengthened pathways to STEM careers through exposure to scientists, researchers, and real-world research environments.





# Empowering Equality: Advancing Gender Inclusion

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aspires to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by removing discrimination, violence, and structural barriers that limit equal participation and leadership in every sphere of life. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable development. Advancing this goal requires collective action through education, policy reform, advocacy, and community empowerment. The aim is to ensure that everyone, regardless of gender, has equal access to opportunities and resources.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), gender equality stands as a central pillar of human development and institutional excellence. The university is committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and empowering environment for all members of its community. Through research, education, and outreach, UMS actively challenges gender stereotypes, promotes equity in leadership and employment, and advances gender-sensitive learning and engagement practices.



UMS continues to turn its values of inclusivity and empowerment into action. Through education, research, and community engagement, UMS promotes equal participation, challenges stereotypes, and nurtures a culture of respect and shared responsibility. The following initiatives highlight the university's ongoing efforts to advance equality and strengthen opportunities for all.

**EmpowerED – HER = HIM** - Held on 30 October 2025 at Theatrette Ahmad Nisfu, Akademi Seni dan Teknologi Kreatif (ASTiF), Universiti Malaysia Sabah, the EmpowerED – HER = HIM program championed advocacy and cultural dialogue on empowerment and gender equality. Jointly organised by ASTiF, SRIKANDI UKM, and PERSENI UMS, the event underscored that empowerment is not about competition between genders, but collaboration rooted in mutual respect, equity, and shared human values. Through interactive discussions, cultural showcases, and creative performances, participants explored how equality can thrive through inclusive education, artistic expression, and cultural understanding. The initiative provided a meaningful platform for students, artists, and community members to exchange perspectives and challenge stereotypes, strengthening UMS's commitment to SDG 5 by fostering empathy, inclusivity, and gender parity in the creative and academic spheres.



**Minggu Kesedaran Kesihatan Seksual dan Reproduktif UMS 2024** - On 25 July 2024 at the UMS Library, the Hospital Universiti Malaysia Sabah (HUMS), through its Health Centre (PKU) and in collaboration with the Student Representative Council (MPP), organised Minggu Kesedaran Kesihatan Seksual dan Reproduktif UMS 2024. This campus-wide program enhanced awareness and understanding of reproductive and sexual health among young adults in higher education. The event featured exhibitions, forums, interactive quizzes, cervical cancer and HIV screenings, and small-group learning activities. A total of 145 participants attended, including students from UMS and Politeknik Kota Kinabalu, with 53 undergoing voluntary HIV tests. Expert-led sessions discussed responsible health practices, gender-based health disparities, and early prevention, while breaking the stigma around sexual health education. By promoting equal access to health knowledge and services, this initiative advanced SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), nurturing a more informed, empowered university community.

**Disability Equality Training (DET) 2024** - Conducted on 26 March 2024 via Microsoft Teams, the UMS Centre for Disability Management hosted the Disability Equality Training (DET) 2024 to promote deeper awareness of equality, inclusion, and accessibility.

Participants examined the distinction between “impairment” and “disability,” recognising that social and environmental barriers—rather than physical limitations—create exclusion. Through interactive discussions and reflective exercises, they learned how inclusive practices can transform higher education and workplaces. The training broadened the interpretation of SDG 5, linking gender equality with disability rights and intersectional inclusion, and reaffirmed UMS’s commitment to building an equitable academic environment where all individuals, regardless of gender or ability, can thrive and contribute meaningfully.

**Gender Roles and Countryside Exploration (GRACE) Series** - The Gender Roles and Countryside Exploration (GRACE) Series, spearheaded by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), stands as a hallmark of UMS’s experiential learning approach that bridges academia and community. Conducted across Kinabatangan (January 2024), Semporna (December 2024), and Kudat (December 2025), the series involved over 300 students and local residents in exploring gender dynamics and empowerment within rural Sabah. Through fieldwork, ethnographic observations, and community dialogues, participants examined how gender influences access to education, resources, and decision-making. The GRACE Series connected classroom theories with real-world experiences, empowering both students and community members to advocate for equity. This long-term engagement exemplified UMS’s leadership in achieving SDG 5 by integrating education, research, and rural empowerment.

**Women in Leadership: Panel Discussion** - “Peranan Wanita dalam Demokrasi Malaysia” - On 23 October 2025 at Hotel 7 Suria, Kota Kinabalu, UMS participated in the Women in Leadership Panel Discussion organised by the Razak School of Government (RSOG), Akademi Kepimpinan Wanita Sabah (AKWan), and the Sabah Department of Women’s Affairs. The dialogue gathered prominent women leaders from government, academia, and industry to deliberate on strengthening women’s representation in democracy and governance. Representing UMS, Dr. Maine Suadik of FSSK provided valuable insights on the opportunities and challenges faced by women in policymaking. Workshops, roundtables, and networking sessions explored strategies for inclusive leadership and institutional reform. This initiative advanced SDG 5 by amplifying women’s voices in decision-making and reaffirmed UMS’s role as a thought leader in promoting evidence-based gender discourse at the national level.

**Safeguarding Equality and Dignity at UMS** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) upholds a firm non-discrimination policy that ensures a safe, equitable, and respectful environment for all students and staff, aligning closely with Malaysia’s national framework on gender equality. Central to this commitment is the enforcement of the Garis Panduan Pengendalian Kes Gangguan Seksual di UMS (Guidelines for Handling Sexual Harassment Cases), issued under Legal Advisor’s Circular No. 1/2021 and published on the official UMS portal.

The guideline provides a clear, transparent framework for the reporting, investigation, and resolution of gender-based harassment cases that guaranteeing confidentiality, fairness, and protection for all parties involved. This policy underscores UMS’s zero-tolerance stance toward discrimination and harassment, ensuring that every member of the university community can study, work, and lead without fear or intimidation.

Through these institutional safeguards and continuous awareness initiatives, UMS reinforces its dedication to protecting women’s rights, promoting gender sensitivity, and ensuring compliance with national and international gender equity standards. This proactive approach reflects UMS’s broader vision of cultivating a campus built on dignity, respect, and equality for all.

**Gender Equality and Inclusivity at UMS** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) demonstrates its strong commitment to gender equity through the implementation of a Gender Equality and Inclusivity Policy and an Access and Participation Framework under the Strategic Management Centre (Pusat Pengurusan Strategik, PPS). These frameworks ensure equal opportunities for women’s application, entry, and participation in higher education, aligning with national benchmarks set by Bahagian Kecemerlangan Pengurusan dan Tadbir Urus (BKePT).

UMS adheres fully to the national requirement of at least 30% women’s representation across 12 profiled strategic positions, under a 1:3 succession planning ratio, achieving 100% compliance. The university systematically tracks gender-disaggregated data through UMISIS and the Academic Management Division (BPA) to monitor inclusivity, identify imbalances, and inform policies that enhance access and leadership opportunities for women.

Complementing these governance measures are targeted initiatives such as Women in STEM@UMS and the Huawei Women in ICT Empowerment Programme, which aim to strengthen women’s participation in science, technology, and digital innovation.



Kelab Suri Rumah dan Staf Wanita Universiti Malaysia Sabah (KESUMBA UMS)



Family-Friendly Campus Support: Pusat Minda Lestari (UMS's on-campus childcare and early-childhood education centre)



The 5th Communities' Crime Awareness, Resilience, and Empowerment (CARE) Project [www.mcpf.org.my](http://www.mcpf.org.my)



Women in Tech Awards in Huawei ICT Competition Global Final

Women of Discovery Awards

As a result, women now constitute over 60% of new student enrolments and 48% of senior academic staff, a clear reflection of UMS's success in fostering a balanced, empowering, and inclusive academic environment.

**Gender Data Monitoring and Equality Dashboard** - As part of its institutional commitment to evidence-based gender equity, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) systematically measures and tracks women's application and enrolment rates through the Academic Management Division (BPA), Strategic Management Centre (PPS), and Data Management & Artificial Intelligence Centre (DARTIC). Gender-disaggregated data are analysed annually and reported through the UMS Annual Report and the Gender Equality Dashboard, serving as key tools for monitoring inclusivity in higher education. From 2021 to 2025, women consistently represented more than 64% of total new enrolments: 68.34% (2021), 68.57% (2022), 65.45% (2023), 65.88% (2024), and 64.09% (2025). It reflecting a stable and inclusive admission trend.

This systematic monitoring enables UMS to identify gender patterns, strengthen women's participation—particularly in STEM fields—and guide equitable access policies. Through this data-driven approach, UMS not only upholds transparency and accountability but also reinforces its leadership in advancing SDG 5: Gender Equality, aligning university progress with national and global goals for inclusive higher education.

#### **The 5th Communities' Crime Awareness, Resilience, and Empowerment (CARE) Project**

- Held on 24 November 2025 at the UMS Recital Hall, the 5th CARE Project—a flagship effort by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK) in collaboration with the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) and the Sabah Crime Prevention Club—focused on raising awareness about crime prevention through a gender-sensitive lens. With the theme "Satu Hati Tolak Jenayah," the program addressed gendered vulnerabilities such as harassment, bullying, and substance abuse. More than 300 participants, including students and school representatives, attended expert sessions by PDRM, AADK, and the Sabah State Health Department (JKN). Interactive dialogues and student-led activities fostered leadership, empathy, and social responsibility. By linking gender awareness with community safety, the initiative advanced SDG 5 and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), promoting safer and more equitable communities.

**Supporting Mothers through Accessible Childcare** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) champions family-friendly education through its Pusat Minda Lestari (PML), a childcare facility that enables student/staff mothers to continue their studies/work with confidence and peace of mind. The centre provides a safe, affordable, and high-quality daycare environment with flexible hours tailored to class and examination schedules, ensuring that parenthood does not become a barrier to academic success.

In 2024, children from student families represented 50% of total enrolment, increasing to 67% in 2025, reflecting the growing trust and participation in this supportive service. Staffed by qualified caregivers, PML not only focuses on children's well-being but also supports maternal health through complementary facilities such as lactation rooms, family rest areas, and wellness programmes delivered by the Health Promotion and Wellness Unit and KESUMBA.

**Promoting Shared Parenthood and Family Well-Being** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) upholds a progressive paternity and parental-support policy that encourages shared family responsibilities and supports women's continued participation in the workforce. In line with JPA Circular PP SM 106 and the UMS Human Resource Policy, eligible male staff are entitled to seven (7) days of paid paternity leave for each confinement, allowing fathers to take an active role in childcare and postnatal support.

Beyond paternity leave, UMS also provides spousal-support leave (Cuti Menjaga Anak, CMA) and flexible work arrangements, including Work-From-Home (WFH) options for both parents. These measures foster equitable parenting, strengthen family well-being, and enable women to return to work without compromising family stability.

#### **CONCLUSION: FOSTERING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND A FUTURE-READY WORKFORCE**

Through its strong governance framework and inclusive culture, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to demonstrate leadership in advancing SDG 5: Gender Equality; through strong policies, data-driven governance, and inclusive campus practices. Guided by its Gender Equality and Inclusivity Policy and Access and Participation Framework, UMS ensures equal opportunities for women in education, employment, and leadership in achieving full compliance with the national benchmark of at least 30% women's representation in strategic positions. Institutional safeguards, such as the Guidelines for Handling Sexual Harassment Cases, reinforce a safe and respectful environment for all.

Beyond governance, UMS cultivates empowerment through initiatives such as EmpowerED – HER = HIM, Women in STEM@UMS, and the Huawei Women in ICT Empowerment Programme, fostering awareness, creativity, and leadership among women and youth. The university also promotes holistic well-being through programmes like Minggu Kesedaran Kesihatan Seksual dan Reproduktif, Disability Equality Training (DET), and the CARE Project, encouraging empathy, safety, and gender sensitivity across campus and communities.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect UMS's comprehensive approach to gender equality; combining policy, data, empowerment, protection, and family support into one integrated framework. Through this ongoing commitment, UMS not only upholds fairness and inclusivity within its own community but also contributes to national and global goals for a just, equitable, and sustainable society, where every individual, regardless of gender or ability, can learn, lead, and thrive together.

## Impact at a glance

- 64–68% of new student enrolments from 2021–2025 were women, reflecting sustained gender inclusivity in admissions.
- 100% compliance with the national benchmark of at least 30% women's representation in 12 profiled strategic leadership positions.
- 48% of senior academic staff are women, demonstrating progress in gender-balanced leadership.
- Pusat Minda Lestari (PML) childcare centre supports student mothers, with participation rising from 50% (2024) to 67% (2025) of enrolled children from student families.
- Comprehensive policies implemented, including non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and paternity and parental-support leave, ensuring a safe and family-friendly campus.
- Over 1,000 participants engaged through gender advocacy, leadership, and empowerment programmes such as EmpowerED – HER = HIM, Women in STEM@UMS, and Huawei Women in ICT Empowerment.
- Health and well-being initiatives (e.g., Reproductive Health Awareness Week, Disability Equality Training, CARE Project) strengthened gender-sensitive education and community resilience.
- Gender Equality Dashboard established under PPS, BPA, and DARTIC, institutionalising data-driven monitoring of gender trends and policy outcomes.







# UMS Building Water-Wise Communities for a Resilient Future

Access to clean water is a cornerstone of public health, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic progress. In Sabah where many rural, coastal, and island communities still struggle with inconsistent water access. Water security is not just an environmental issue but a matter of dignity, equity, and human rights. As a Malaysian EcoCampus and a leading university in Borneo, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) embraces its responsibility to strengthen water governance, promote community resilience, and drive transformative solutions aligned with SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

Guided by the UMS Sustainability & Climate Action Policy (2023–2030), the EcoCampus Sustainability Framework, and the UMS Strategic Plan 2023–2027, the university integrates education, research, innovation, and community engagement to address water challenges across Sabah. Through Living Labs, capacity-building programmes, and technology transfer initiatives, UMS empowers communities, especially those in underserved and remote areas which to directly participate in managing and protecting their water resources.

To translate these aspirations into measurable outcomes, UMS drives targeted programmes that enhance water access, strengthen technical capacity, and promote long-term sustainability. The initiatives that follow showcase UMS's leadership in advancing clean water and sanitation for all.

**WASH Capacity Building:** Empowering Communities Through Knowledge & Technology - Safe water and sanitation remain pressing needs in rural Sabah. Through the Smart Sanitation for Water Settlements Project, jointly implemented with UNEP and ACT Malaysia, UMS delivers hands-on training on rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse, and solar-powered water filtration systems.

Designed for ease of maintenance using locally available materials, these technologies are paired with hygiene education to ensure long-term sustainability.

UMS successfully completed a solar-powered **Micro Water Supply Plant** in Kg Lok Dangkaan, Pitas; producing up to 30,000 litres of clean water per day with IoT-enabled performance monitoring. The initiative, funded by LAKSANA (Ministry of Finance) with support from Perbadanan Baitulmal Negeri Sabah, now provides reliable water access to residents who previously depended on contaminated sources and seasonal wells.

On October 2025, UMS strengthened its Living Lab ecosystem through a site audit of the **Rural Water Supply (RuWaS) Living Lab** at SMK Bongkol, Pitas. Led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), the visit assessed its readiness for accreditation as a Recognised Living Lab, highlighting its strong model for community-centred water treatment education, student engagement, and rural innovation.

To date, more than **2,500 residents** across **Semporna, Kota Belud, and Pitas** have benefitted from UMS-led micro water systems that experiencing significant reductions in waterborne diseases while gaining the skills to operate and maintain filtration units independently.

**Strengthening Water Security Through Research, Outreach & Partnership** - UMS plays a catalytic role in translating research into community upliftment through multi-sector collaborations. Such as Water Literacy Through Early Education through Professor @ School in Tunas STEM Desa, whereby students and faculty, participants built basic water filtration models using sand, charcoal, stones, and recycled materials in helping them understand how clean water is produced.



Campus-based Tubewells



Solar-powered Micro Water Supply Plant in Kg Lok Dangkaan, Pitas



Rural Water Supply (RuWaS) Living Lab at SMK Bongkol, Pitas

The programme nurtured STEM curiosity, teamwork, and early awareness of water sustainability.

Other program includes **STI Labuan Carnival**, which showcased environmental research, STEM demonstrations, and climate science storytelling to students across Labuan. The exhibition highlighted water purification concepts and climate impacts, supported by FSSA and U-Science. Participation by prominent UMS researchers deepened understanding of water, environment, and scientific innovation. Similarly, STEM Carnival@lahad Datu, also conduct demonstrations on water filtration, pH indicators, egg drop physics, and air-powered engineering; that reached rural schools across Lahad Datu. Motivational sessions on STEM + AI expanded students' vision of future-ready engineering careers.

Another program in Strengthening Water Governance is the **Research Collaboration with DID Inanam**, where UMS researchers collaborate with the Sabah Department of Irrigation and Drainage to study flood mitigation, watershed analysis, and climate-resilient infrastructure. This strengthens Sabah's technical capacity and links academic insights to real-world policy implementation.

**HydroSense UMS: Daily Water Monitoring and Operational Governance** - Aligned with the UMS Sustainability and Climate Action Policy (2023-2030) and SDG 6, the university implements a comprehensive water-measurement system covering all treated, extracted, and harvested sources. Managed by JPP (Development and maintenance office), the system uses digital meters and real-time dashboards to accurately track campus-wide water use. UMS receives its main supply from JANS Telibong 2 via the R13 Tank (10 ML) and the UMS Main Tank (6.75 ML). To enhance resilience, the campus also operates nine tubewells that contribute about 30% of total water demand, along with rainwater harvesting systems at selected buildings for landscaping and toilet flushing.

By combining treated water with tubewell extraction and rainwater harvesting, UMS reduces reliance on external supply and strengthens long-term sustainability. Monthly digital data feeds into the UMS Utility and EcoCampus Dashboards, enabling informed decisions, cost control, and transparent reporting; demonstrating UMS's commitment to safeguarding water for people and the planet.

**Water recycling and reuse initiatives** - UMS is committed in using water responsibly by transforming treated wastewater and rainwater into valuable secondary resources that support daily campus operations. Several key initiatives drive this water-reuse ecosystem includes:

**Rainwater Harvesting Programme** - Rooftop catchment systems at the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, and UMS Mosque channel rainwater into storage tanks (10,000–20,000 litres). This harvested water is reused for landscape irrigation and toilet flushing, reducing dependence on treated water.

**Sedimentation Chambers** - Laboratories and workshops utilise sedimentation units to remove suspended solids before wastewater is discharged, ensuring cleaner and safer effluent.

**Chemical Neutralisation Systems** - Neutralisation tanks installed in science and engineering laboratories stabilise pH levels and remove hazardous residues from chemical wastewater, preventing pollution and protecting downstream ecosystems. **Hazardous Waste Containment** - Research facilities such as the Centre for Instrumental Analysis (CIA) and faculty safety units implement strict protocols for segregating, neutralising, and disposing of chemical effluent in accordance with UMS guidelines, safeguarding both people and the environment.

Collectively, these measures enable UMS to recycle or reuse over 50% of its total campus water resources, conserving an estimated 320,000 m<sup>3</sup> of treated water annually. This not only strengthens environmental stewardship but also significantly reduces operational costs; demonstrating UMS's commitment to sustainable and responsible water management.

## CONCLUSION: SUSTAINING WATER SECURITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION, AND ACTION

Through community-focused WASH programmes, school-based STEM outreach, strategic research partnerships, and strong campus water governance, UMS demonstrates a holistic commitment to SDG 6. By combining clean-water access initiatives in rural Sabah with innovative Living Labs, youth engagement, digital monitoring systems, and extensive water-recycling measures, the university strengthens water security, reduces environmental impact, and empowers communities to manage their own resources sustainably. Together, these efforts reflect UMS's leadership in building a water-wise, resilient future for both the campus and the wider region.



FAKULTI PERTANIAN LESTARI



FAKULTI SAINS MAKANAN DAN PEMAKANAN



FAKULTI SAINS DAN SUMBER ALAM



INSTITUT PENYELIDIKAN BIOTEKNOLOGI



FAKULTI KEJURUTERAAN



FAKULTI PERUBATAN & SAINS KESIHATAN



FAKULTI PERHUTANAN TROPINKA



HOSPITAL UMS



INSTITUT BIOLOGI TROPINKA PEMULIHARAAN



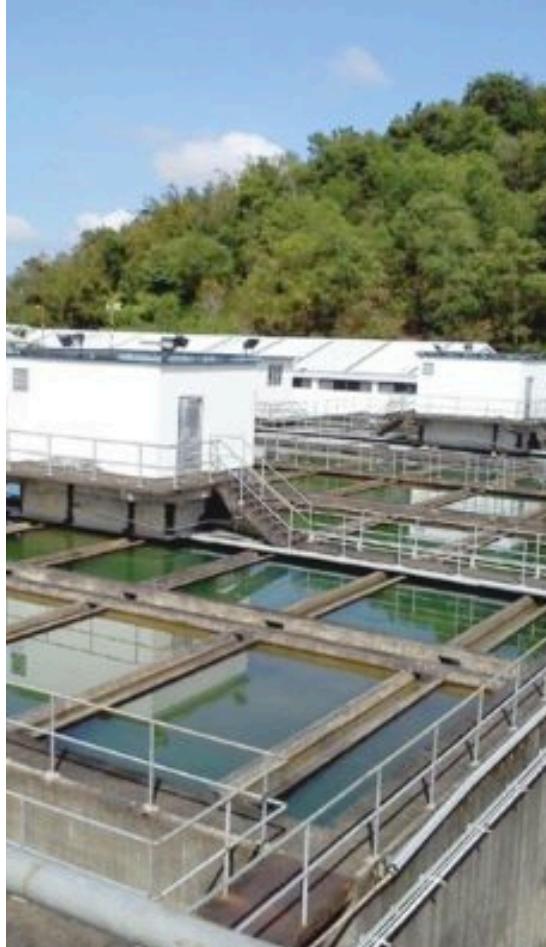
INSTITUT PENYELIDIKAN MARIN BORNEO



PUSAT INSTRUMENTASI & PERKHIDMATAN SAINS

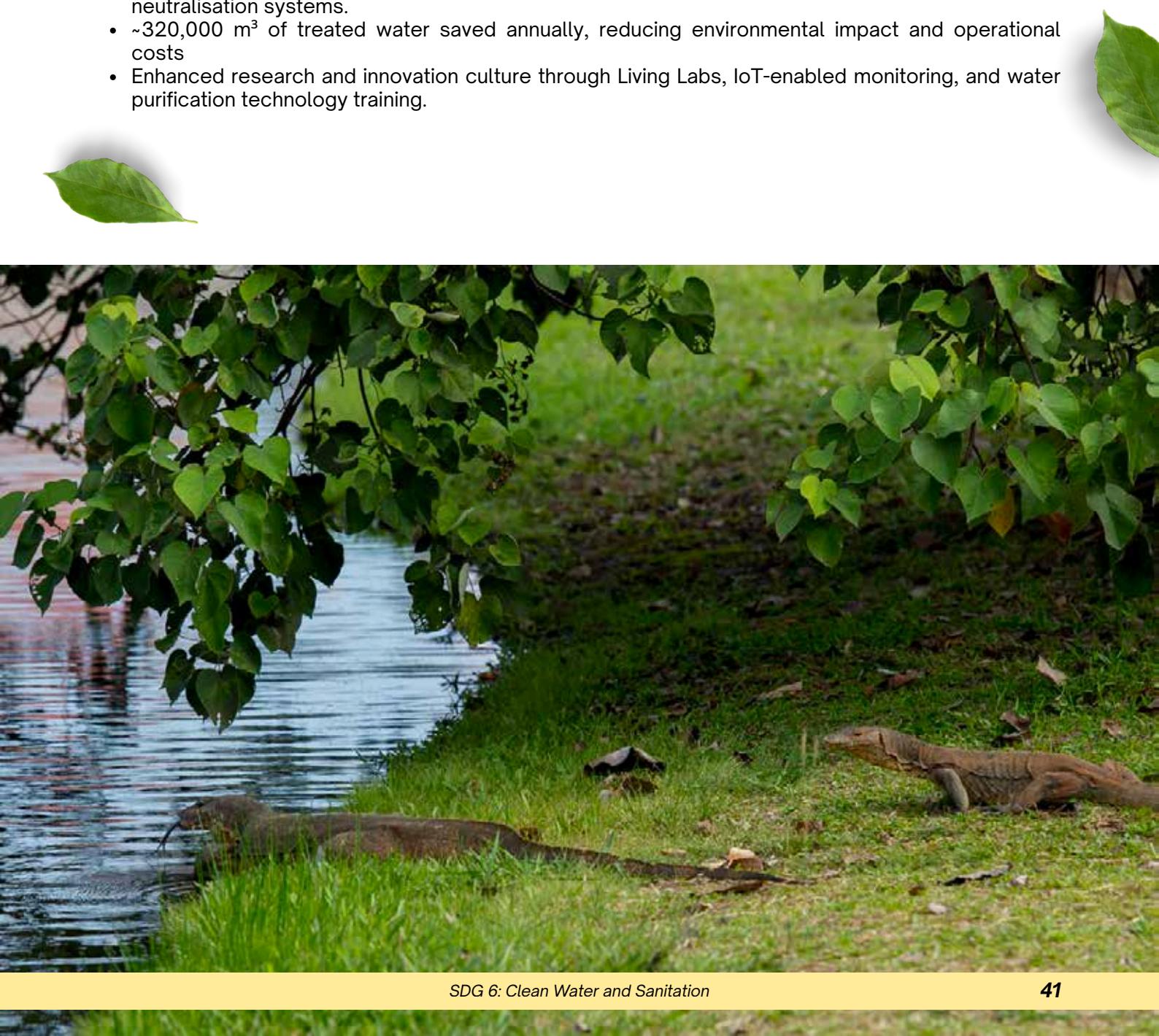


PUSAT PERSEDIAAN SAINS & TEKNOLOGI



# Impact at a glance

- 2,500+ rural residents in Pitas, Kota Belud, and Semporna now have improved access to clean and safe water.
- Up to 30,000 litres/day of clean water produced by the Kg Lok Dangkaan solar-powered Micro Water Supply Plant.
- Four UMS Micro Water Stations / Living Labs established, strengthening community-based water management and rural innovation.
- Significant reduction in waterborne diseases (e.g., diarrhoea, typhoid) in villages adopting UMS-trained WASH practices.
- Hundreds of students engaged through STEM water literacy programmes in Kota Belud, Lahad Datu, and Labuan.
- Strengthened state-level water governance through collaboration with the Sabah Department such as Irrigation and Drainage (DID).
- Comprehensive HydroSense UMS system implemented to track all treated, extracted, and harvested water sources campus-wide.
- Nine tubewells providing ~30% of total campus water demand, reducing reliance on external supply.
- Rainwater harvesting systems operating at key faculties and facilities, supporting irrigation and sanitation needs.
- Over 50% of campus water recycled or reused through harvesting, sedimentation, and neutralisation systems.
- ~320,000 m<sup>3</sup> of treated water saved annually, reducing environmental impact and operational costs
- Enhanced research and innovation culture through Living Labs, IoT-enabled monitoring, and water purification technology training.







# Empowering Communities, Energising Innovation, Illuminating Sabah

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to demonstrate strong institutional leadership in advancing clean energy through research-driven innovation, strategic partnerships, and community-centred implementation. Anchored to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and guided by the UMS Sustainability & Climate Action Policy, the university adopts an evidence-based approach to expanding sustainable energy access across Sabah.

UMS's work in solar deployment, rural microgrid systems, community electrification initiatives, and youth-led green technology entrepreneurship reflects a coherent strategy that links scientific capability with societal needs. These efforts enhance energy reliability, strengthen local resilience, and support equitable socioeconomic development, while contributing to regional and national clean energy agendas.

Building on this foundation, the following initiatives highlight UMS's continued commitment to accelerating a just and sustainable energy transition for communities across Sabah and beyond.

**INSOLER: Turning Sunlight into Strength for Farmers and Fishers** - A flagship example of UMS's research-to-impact translation is the award-winning Integrated Solar Dryer (INSOLER), developed in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan. Led by Prof. Dr. Jidon Januan (UMS) and Prof. Ts. Dr. Arham Abdullah (UMK), INSOLER enables farmers and fishers to reduce post-harvest losses, enhance product quality, and increase income stability. Its international recognition Gold Medal and Special Award (New York Green Technology) at IEVA Germany 2023; positions UMS as a global contributor to green innovation.

INSOLER exemplifies how UMS connects scientific research to real community needs, strengthening rural livelihoods through accessible technology.

**Lighting Pulau Banggi: First Access to Reliable Electricity** - UMS continues to play a pivotal role in electrifying off-grid communities. In Kampung Nusa-Nusa, Pulau Banggi, the university installed a hybrid solar OGPV-1 system (3.5 kW and 7 kW), providing clean and stable electricity to 23 households, benefiting approximately 120 villagers. Led by Ts. Dr. Mohamad Zul Hilmey Makmud (FST) with Perbadanan Baitulmal Negeri Sabah (PBNS) and Maybank Islamic, this initiative replaced expensive diesel generators with sustainable energy. For villagers who lived without proper electricity for decades, this project transformed daily life from learning and safety to economic activity and comfort.

**Expanding Clean Energy in Pitas: A RM300,000 Commitment to Rural Communities** - Building upon the progress in Banggi, UMS and PBNS secured RM300,000 for the Decentralized Off-Grid Photovoltaic (D-OGPV) project in Pitas; one of Sabah's most underserved districts. More than funding, this initiative represents a shared commitment to ensuring that remote communities receive equal access to energy, dignity, and opportunity.

**Lok Dangkaan: Empowering Villages Through Hands-On Solar Innovation** - UMS introduced a transformative model by empowering villagers of Lok Dangkaan to install their own solar systems. Guided and trained by UMS academics, residents successfully electrified 32 homes, a mosque, and an ice-production facility.



Renewable Integration Through Solar PV



International Conference Borneo Sustainability 2025

Volunteers lived alongside villagers, fostering trust and shared purpose. The outcome is profound homes illuminated for the first time, cool air circulating through fans, and children studying in comfort. This initiative demonstrates that sustainable solutions thrive when communities build, manage, and take pride in them.

**Shine on Sustainably: Lighting Rural Paths in Ranau** - In Kampung Mangkapoh, Ranau, UMS Civil Engineering students implemented the award-winning S.O.S Project, installing 20 solar lamps and 2 spotlights along a 950-meter path. What was once a dark and unsafe trail is now a well-lit, welcoming route. Villagers report feeling safer, especially children and elders walking at night. This small but meaningful intervention highlights how student activism can enhance rural quality of life.

**Solar-Powered Clean Water: A Life-Changing Innovation** - UMS also addressed water security in Lok Dangkaan by establishing a Solar-IoT Mini Water Treatment Plant capable of producing 30,000 litres of safe water daily. For families long dependent on unsafe or inconsistent sources, this system offers improved health, reduced household burden, and renewed hope. Here, solar power is not only energy—it is well-being, safety, and opportunity.

**Youth Innovation: Students Turning Ideas into Impact** - UMS students are steadily emerging as catalysts of green innovation, demonstrating how youth-driven ideas can meaningfully support community development. Their award-winning projects—such as **e-Singgah: Solar Mobile Café & Charging Station** (Gold), **Singgah Kopi Incubator** (Gold), and **The Oasis IoT Smart Farming System** (Silver). These reflect a blend of technical creativity and social purpose. Designed not merely for competition, these innovations embody the values of compassion, sustainability, and problem-solving, showcasing the commitment of UMS youth to delivering technologies that uplift communities and create positive, lasting impact.

**Solar Education for the Next Generation** - Through programmes such as MindQUEST Carnival and SciMaTech, UMS introduces rural children to the excitement of science through hands-on solar activities, including the popular Solar Car Challenge.

These engagements inspire curiosity and confidence, nurturing the sustainability leaders and engineers of tomorrow.

**National Recognition: A Testament to Green Innovation** - UMS's Microgrid Lab, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Kamal Mohd Shah, received the Malaysia Sustainable Leadership Award 2025 for Green Technology Innovation. The award recognises years of research dedication and underscores UMS's national leadership in renewable energy solutions.

**UMS's Own Decarbonisation Journey: Leading by Example** - UMS demonstrates institutional responsibility through a 10.5 MWp solar PV installation under a Zero CAPEX Solar Supply Agreement with Quantum Sustainable Energy. Over 25 years, this system will save approximately RM65 million and significantly reduce carbon emissions. This initiative reflects UMS's commitment to operational sustainability and sector-wide leadership in green campus transformation.

**Partnerships that Honour People and Purpose** - UMS's clean energy achievements are built on strong partnerships with PBNS, LAKSANA, KSTI, Maybank Islamic, Kibing Solar, SCENIC, ILP Kota Kinabalu, and others. These collaborations reaffirm a core belief: sustainable development succeeds through collective effort, shared responsibility, and mutual respect.

**CONCLUSION: LIGHTING THE PATH FORWARD** UMS's SDG 7 initiatives showcase how clean energy, when grounded in innovation and compassion, can transform lives across rural Sabah. From award-winning technologies like INSOLER to the first lighting of homes in Banggi and Pitas, community-led solar installations in Lok Dangkaan, safer pathways in Ranau, and solar-powered clean water systems, each effort reflects a university deeply committed to uplifting communities through practical, people-centred solutions. Supported by strong partnerships and driven by the passion of students, researchers, and local residents, UMS continues to illuminate homes, strengthen livelihoods, and inspire a future where every community has access to sustainable, reliable, and dignified energy.



MindQUEST Carnival



SciMaTech Roadshow – STEM & Solar Activities



Kampung Nusa-Nusa Hybrid Solar OGPV-1 System — Learning Renewable Energy Through Experience



D-OGPV Rural Electrification in Pitas — Energy Literacy Workshops and Solar Installation Activities

# Impact at a glance

- 23 off-grid households electrified in Pulau Banggi, benefiting approximately 120 villagers with reliable, renewable energy.
- 32 homes, a mosque, and an ice-production hub in Lok Dangkaan powered through community-installed solar systems.
- RM300,000 investment secured to expand decentralized solar systems in rural Pitas, one of Sabah's most underserved districts.
- 30,000 litres/day of safe water produced through the Solar-IoT Mini Water Treatment Plant in Lok Dangkaan.
- 950-meter rural footpath in Ranau illuminated with 20 solar lamps and 2 spotlights, improving safety and mobility.
- INSOLER Solar Dryer improved post-harvest quality and income stability for farmers and fishers, winning 2 international awards.
- Youth-led solar innovations earned multiple Gold and Silver medals, demonstrating strong student leadership in green technology.
- Hundreds of schoolchildren engaged through solar education programmes such as MindQUEST Carnival and SciMaTech.
- UMS Microgrid Lab awarded the Malaysia Sustainable Leadership Award 2025 for Green Technology Innovation.
- 10.5 MWp campus solar installation underway, projected to save RM65 million over 25 years, significantly reducing UMS's carbon footprint.
- Strong multi-stakeholder partnerships (PBNS, LAKSANA, KSTI, Maybank Islamic, Kibing Solar, SCENIC, ILP KK) strengthened to support community electrification.



Lok Dangkaan Solar Training Programme — From Villagers to Technicians



Ranau S.O.S Solar Lighting Project





# Fostering Inclusive Growth and a Future-Ready Workforce

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, alongside full and productive employment and decent work for all. At its heart, SDG 8 emphasises innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusivity, and workforce resilience as key enablers of societal progress.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), this commitment is embedded across education, research, and community outreach. Through a diverse range of programmes and partnerships, UMS continues to empower individuals, strengthen local economies, and cultivate a future-ready workforce that drives Malaysia's sustainable development agenda.

**Empowering Rural Entrepreneurs through Digital Skills** - In 2024, UMS, through the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FPEP), organised a **capacity-building workshop titled “Shopee Affiliate and Canva Design”** at the Pusat Sebaran Maklumat Nasional (NADI), Kampung Rampayan Laut, Kota Belud. The programme empowered rural entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, with essential digital entrepreneurship skills to enhance income opportunities.

Participants learned to create **Shopee Affiliate accounts and design marketing materials using Canva**, enabling them to venture into e-commerce with minimal capital investment. By promoting creativity, innovation, and online market access, the initiative encouraged self-reliance and micro-enterprise sustainability. The programme exemplifies UMS's commitment to inclusive economic participation, fostering local innovation and resilience through digital empowerment in line with SDG 8.

## 1-Fakulti 1-Komuniti: Empowering Sustainability

- Beyond campus-focused initiatives, UMS extended its impact to local communities through the 1-Fakulti 1-Komuniti: Empowering Sustainability in Kundasang programme, held on 14 June 2025. Organised by the Faculty of Engineering in collaboration with another Malaysian university, the programme focused on sustainable waste management and composting practices tailored to the Kundasang community.

Through hands-on learning and knowledge sharing, participants gained practical livelihood skills that reduced environmental impact and promoted community-based economic activities. This initiative demonstrates UMS's effort to integrate skills development, environmental entrepreneurship, and community resilience, reflecting the true spirit of SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

**Karnival Kerjaya MyFutureJobs X UMS 2025** - One of the flagship efforts in 2025 was the Karnival Kerjaya MyFutureJobs X UMS 2025, held from 29 to 30 April 2025. This yearly career fair served as a vital platform connecting students with industry representatives across multiple sectors. Organised in collaboration with MyFutureJobs, the event featured interactive sessions such as career talks, résumé clinics, and job-matching activities that prepared students for the realities of the labour market.

By promoting networking opportunities and career readiness, this initiative directly supported the goal of increasing youth employment and fostering decent work opportunities. The event reflected UMS's ongoing commitment to bridging the gap between academic learning and industry needs, ensuring that its graduates are equipped with the skills and confidence necessary to thrive in competitive professional environments.



**Strengthening Innovation and Competitiveness through Strategic Initiatives** - In its mission to enhance institutional excellence and human capital development, UMS launched two key initiatives under the banner “UMS Perkuuh Inovasi dan Daya Saing melalui Dua Inisiatif Strategik” on 27 August 2025. These include the establishment of the **Kluster SDG-ESG and Anugerah Impak Kelestarian**, and the introduction of Sistem MyKompetensi 2.0 & UMS Leadership Talent.

Both initiatives aim to cultivate leadership excellence, strengthen staff competencies, and enhance institutional innovation capacity. By prioritising leadership readiness, workforce development, and skills mapping, UMS continues to build a dynamic, future-ready workforce that contributes to Malaysia's sustainable economic growth — a key objective of SDG 8.

**Groundbreaking of UMS Hotel and Hospitality Teaching Laboratory** - A landmark moment in experiential education was marked by the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Universiti Malaysia Sabah Hotel and Hospitality Teaching Laboratory, officiated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr. Kasim Hj. Mansor. Developed by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FPEP), this facility will serve as a real-world training hub for hospitality and tourism students.

The project integrates academic learning with hands-on industry experience, equipping students with vital technical and managerial skills for the growing hospitality sector. Beyond academic enrichment, the teaching hotel will advance regional tourism, promote job creation, and enhance socio-economic development. It reflects UMS's continuing role in driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth under SDG 8.

**UMS-Yun Fook Resources Research Agreement** - Demonstrating the value of university-industry partnerships, UMS signed a research agreement with Yun Fook Resources Sdn. Bhd., which provided an RM80,000 grant to the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP). The research focuses on enhancing dairy cow milk production and advancing innovation in the agri-food sector.

This partnership demonstrates how applied research and private-sector collaboration can drive economic productivity, technological innovation, and industry competitiveness; aligning directly with the goals of SDG 8.

**International Collaboration with Indonesian Universities.** In 2025, UMS deepened regional academic collaboration through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Universitas Muhammadiyah (UNISMUH) Makassar and Universitas Slamet Riyadi (UNISRI), Surakarta. These partnerships strengthen cooperation in teaching, research, publication, and student mobility, building on earlier initiatives that included academic exchange, joint seminars, scientific writing workshops, and CSR projects.

Such international linkages create opportunities for knowledge exchange, human capital development, and cross-border employability, reinforcing UMS's dedication to creating decent and productive work opportunities in line with SDG 8.

**International Collaboration on Sustainable Halal Tourism and Management Systems** - In August 2024, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), in collaboration with the Pusat Riset Komunikasi Pemasaran, Pariwisata & Ekonomi Kreatif (KITA KREATIF) of Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK), Indonesia, embarked on an international knowledge exchange initiative focusing on sustainable halal tourism development and management control systems for creative enterprises.

The collaboration featured an international seminar and interactive knowledge-sharing sessions involving experts from UMS, USK, and industry partners. Discussions centred on strengthening managerial competencies among micro and small enterprises (MSEs), particularly in the halal tourism and printing sectors — both vital contributors to local economic resilience.

This initiative provided a platform for cross-border collaboration and knowledge transfer, fostering innovation and sustainable business practices in alignment with the principles of responsible and inclusive economic growth. By equipping local entrepreneurs with improved operational, financial, and management systems, the program enhanced business efficiency, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability.

## CONCLUSION: FOSTERING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND A FUTURE-READY WORKFORCE

Through its diverse education, research, and community engagement initiatives, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to strengthen its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Across 2024 and 2025, the university's initiatives. From digital entrepreneurship training and community-based sustainability projects, to institutional capacity building, industry collaborations, and international partnerships.

All collectively fostered inclusive economic participation and workforce empowerment.

These efforts not only create opportunities for decent work but also build entrepreneurial mindsets, enhance employability, and nurture resilient local economies. UMS's holistic approach to empowering individuals and communities embodies its broader mission as the Brain of Borneo; transforming knowledge into real-world impact for sustainable and equitable growth.

## Impact at a glance

- Over 250 beneficiaries, including rural entrepreneurs, students, and local community members
- RM80,000 industry-funded research grant (Yun Fook Resources Sdn. Bhd.)
- 3 international MoUs enhancing cross-border academic and workforce development
- 1 new hospitality training hub to create future employment opportunities in Sabah's tourism sector
- 1 national career fair linking students to industries and job opportunities



UMS-Yun Fook Resources Research Agreement



# UMS as a Catalyst for Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) underscores the importance of building resilient infrastructure, fostering inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and driving innovation for long-term progress. It highlights how science, technology, and research serve as the backbone of economic growth and environmental stewardship.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), innovation is more than a pursuit — it is a commitment to shaping a sustainable and forward-looking society. As a leading research university in East Malaysia, UMS continues to act as a catalyst for industrial transformation, digital empowerment, and technological collaboration that bridges academia, industry, and community.

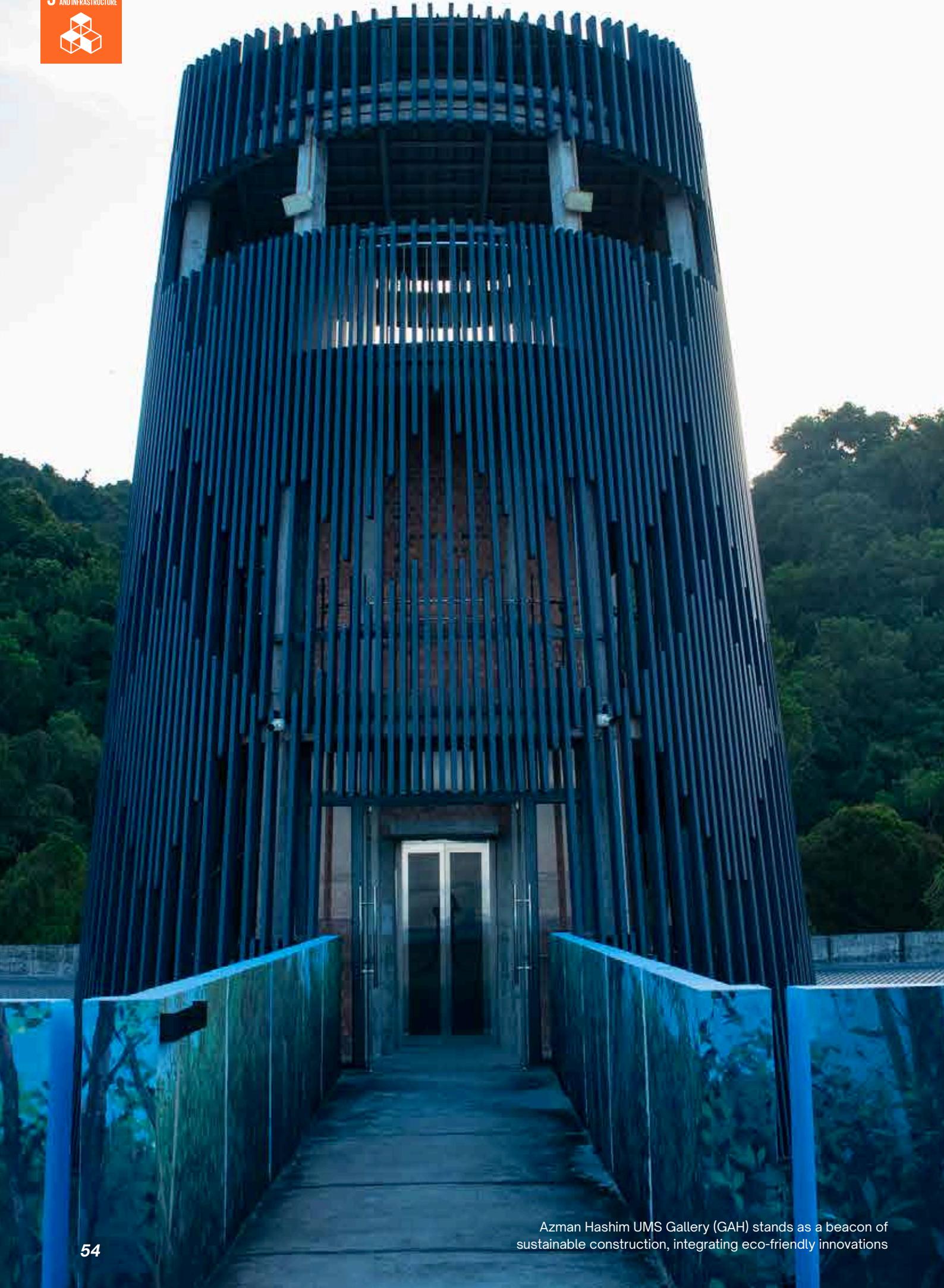
Through strategic partnerships, applied research, and impactful projects, UMS has strengthened its contribution to Malaysia's innovation ecosystem — particularly in areas such as renewable energy, engineering solutions, aquaculture, and sustainable agriculture. The year 2025 marked a pivotal moment as UMS deepened its role as a connector between knowledge and practice, advancing the aspirations of SDG 9 through research excellence, technology-driven initiatives, and sustainable infrastructure development, including:

**AI-Based Smart Monitoring for Power Transformers** - In 2025, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Power Transcoteq and Services Sdn. Bhd. under the Ministry of Higher Education's Industry Matching Programme (IMaP). Valued at RM273,110, the project aims to develop AI-based smart monitoring devices for power transformers, capable of assessing the state of health of transformer insulating oil.

Led by the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources (FSSA), this collaboration strengthens Malaysia's technological capacity in the energy sector while advancing research-driven industrial solutions. It reflects UMS's commitment to bridging academia and industry in fostering sustainable innovation for national development.

**Eco-Friendly Microbial Fertilizer for Sustainable Agriculture** - A strategic collaboration between UMS and Agri Sabah Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd. (ASF), spearheaded by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (IBTP), focused on the development of an eco-friendly microbial fertilizer carrier to support sustainable agricultural practices. Supported by a RM200,000 grant co-funded by the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) and ASF, the project exemplifies a strong university-industry partnership. It advances innovation in agricultural biotechnology while promoting environmentally responsible industrial practices, contributing to food security and rural economic sustainability.

**AI-Powered Fish Disease Detection for Sustainable Aquaculture** - Through a collaboration with Sri Komputer Sdn. Bhd. (SRIKOM) and the Ministry of Higher Education, UMS introduced Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) technologies in aquaculture to enable real-time monitoring of fish health, water quality, and behavioural patterns. Integrating AI and sensor-based analytics, this initiative enhances aquaculture productivity while safeguarding environmental integrity. The project embodies SDG 9's call to foster innovation and modernize traditional industries, strengthening the digital infrastructure that underpins Malaysia's emerging blue economy.



Azman Hashim UMS Gallery (GAH) stands as a beacon of sustainable construction, integrating eco-friendly innovations

**Lightweight Concrete Poles for Sustainable Infrastructure** - On 2 September 2025, the Faculty of Engineering (FKJ) formalised a strategic research agreement with Winabumi Sdn. Bhd. to develop lightweight concrete poles for sustainable infrastructure applications. The partnership emphasizes applied research, technological innovation, and industry-driven engineering solutions. By combining academic expertise with industrial know-how, the project seeks to produce cost-effective and sustainable construction materials, particularly suited for rural and coastal infrastructure development. This initiative advances SDG 9 by promoting resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation in engineering materials.

**Building Information Modelling (BIM) Laboratory through the Secondary ICP Agreement** - Further advancing Malaysia's technological development, UMS formalized a partnership with the Ministry of Finance Malaysia through the Secondary ICP Agreement under Projects IP2 and IP11. In collaboration with the Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDA) and industry partners such as the WCT Holdings Bhd-China Communications Construction Company (M) Sdn. Bhd. Joint Venture (WCJV), this initiative led to the establishment of a Building Information Modelling (BIM) Laboratory at UMS. The BIM Lab enhances the university's capabilities in digital construction design, infrastructure management, and industry-relevant training. It represents a major step forward in institutional innovation and capacity building, positioning UMS as a hub for future-ready engineers and infrastructure planners.

**Solar Energy Partnership for a Sustainable Campus** - In December 2024, UMS reaffirmed its leadership in renewable energy innovation through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Quantum Sustainable Energy Sdn. Bhd. for the supply and installation of a 10.5 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) system on campus.

Implemented under a zero-CAPEX model—requiring no upfront investment from the university—the project is expected to save up to RM65 million in electricity costs over 25 years. Aligned with the UMS Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and national higher education sustainability goals, this initiative exemplifies the intersection of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), showcasing how innovative infrastructure can drive both institutional efficiency and environmental responsibility.

#### **CONCLUSION: INNOVATING FOR A SUSTAINABLE BORNEO WITH UMS AS A CATALYST FOR INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) strengthened its role as a catalyst for innovation and sustainable development through a series of impactful university-industry collaborations. Guided by its mission as the Brain of Borneo, UMS continues to turn knowledge into action by building resilient infrastructure, advancing technology, and nurturing local industries.

From AI-powered energy monitoring and eco-friendly biofertilizers to smart aquaculture systems, lightweight construction materials, and a campus-scale solar project, these initiatives reflect UMS's commitment to real-world innovation that benefits people and the planet. The establishment of the Building Information Modelling (BIM) Laboratory further enhances digital readiness and future engineering capacity.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate how UMS connects research with community needs. Hence fostering innovation, empowering industries, and contributing to Malaysia's sustainable growth in line with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure..



# Impact at a glance

- Six major collaborations and agreements with industry and government partners, including Power Transcoteq, Agri Sabah Fertilizer, Sri Komputer, Winabumi, Quantum Sustainable Energy, and WCJV-SEDA.
- Over RM750,000 in research and innovation funding secured through industry-linked and co-funded projects.
- Technological breakthroughs in AI-based power monitoring, IIoT-enabled aquaculture, eco-friendly microbial fertilizers, lightweight concrete poles, and renewable energy systems.
- New facility established: the Building Information Modelling (BIM) Laboratory, strengthening digital infrastructure and smart construction capabilities.
- 10.5 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) project projected to save up to RM65 million in electricity costs over 25 years under a zero-CAPEX model.

Sustainability impact: promotes low-carbon innovation, resource efficiency, and green technology adoption across sectors.

- Cross-SDG contribution: advances SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through innovation-driven collaboration.



Festival of Idea Sabah Zone



# Promoting Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity for All

Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10) focuses on reducing inequality and ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has equal access to opportunities that promote a better quality of life. It highlights the need to dismantle structural barriers, empower marginalised groups and foster inclusive policies that allow communities to progress together.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), inclusivity is a core value woven into its mission. The university views education as a powerful driver of social mobility and is committed to supporting underserved groups, strengthening student welfare and expanding opportunities for vulnerable communities. By implementing targeted initiatives such as scholarships, food security programmes and community entrepreneurship, UMS actively reduces socio-economic disparities and supports equitable development.

Throughout 2024-2025, UMS deepened its commitment to SDG 10 by offering second-chance education pathways, empowering rural families with livelihood skills and strengthening institutional support for students facing financial hardship. The initiatives outlined below reflect the university's dedication to building a fair, compassionate and opportunity-driven ecosystem for all.

**Program MENITI Kasih: Second Chances for Aspiring Students** – Since introduced in 2019 till now, the program has provided an alternative pathway for students from B40 and disadvantaged backgrounds who were initially not offered places at public universities. Implemented with the Ministry of Higher Education through UPUOnline, the programme identifies eligible candidates and offers academic bridging, preparatory training and emotional support. This initiative is especially impactful for rural Sabah students, transforming barriers into renewed opportunities. MENITI Kasih demonstrates UMS's commitment to inclusive education and social mobility.



**Financial and Meal Assistance for Educational Equity** - UMS supports first-generation and financially vulnerable students through the Program Siswa Sulung UMS, which offers financial assistance, accommodation support and mentorship to help students transition smoothly into university life. Complementing this, the Bantuan Pendidikan Awal (BPA) provides RM1,000 in early educational assistance for students experiencing financial stress or living with disabilities. These programmes ensure that financial hardship does not hinder access to higher education, reinforcing fairness and equal opportunity.

**Bantuan Ehsan UMS: Emergency Support for Students** - helps students facing unexpected crises such as sudden financial loss, family emergencies or urgent living needs. Administered by the Department of Student Affairs (HEP), the programme provides immediate support including food assistance, temporary accommodation and meal vouchers. This timely intervention helps students remain focused on their studies while ensuring their dignity and well-being are protected.

**Infaq Dapur Rahmah: Community Solidarity and Food Security** - The Infaq Dapur Rahmah campaign, led by the UMS Mosque (PIUMS), unites staff and the wider university community through voluntary contributions that support student welfare. Support includes free iftar meals, community fast-breaking events, food packs and meal vouchers for students in need. This initiative strengthens the university's culture of compassion and ensures that students experiencing food insecurity receive the support necessary to continue their studies with dignity.

**Program Breakfast Jom!: Supporting Students During Examinations** - Program Breakfast Jom!, coordinated by JHEP and the Student Representative Council (MPP), provides free breakfast to students during examination periods. This initiative is particularly beneficial for students from low-income backgrounds, ensuring they begin their day with proper nutrition. It reflects UMS's holistic approach to supporting academic success by recognising that equal opportunity includes access to essential daily needs.

**Smart Hydroponics for Sustainable Livelihoods (BAKAT Programme)** - In partnership with the Ministry of Defence and BAKAT, UMS introduced the Smart Hydroponics Project to empower families and youth with modern, sustainable farming knowledge. Conducted by the Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture and PKLM, the programme trains participants in hydroponic systems that require minimal land and resources. The skills gained help communities generate income, enhance food security and build long-term resilience, supporting efforts to reduce economic inequality.

**Traditional Bread and Pastry Entrepreneurship Project (Uni@MADANI 2024)** - Through the Uni@MADANI 2024 programme, UMS empowered members of KEBAL in Labuan with training in traditional and modern bakery production. Participants learned production, branding and digital marketing skills and successfully generated an average income of RM1,900 per month. This entrepreneurship training transforms local talent into sustainable livelihoods, particularly benefiting women and youth from low-income communities.

## **CONCLUSION: ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY**

UMS's initiatives under SDG 10 in 2024 reflect a deep commitment to fairness, compassion and inclusive growth. By supporting vulnerable students, empowering rural communities and ensuring that basic needs are met, the university continues to break down inequalities that hinder social progress. These programmes reaffirm UMS's belief that equitable access to education and livelihood opportunities can transform lives and uplift entire communities.

Looking ahead, UMS remains focused on expanding these initiatives, strengthening institutional support systems and ensuring that no student or community member is left behind. Through sustained effort and shared responsibility, the university is building a more just, inclusive and opportunity-rich environment for all.

# Impact at a glance

- Increased access to higher education for disadvantaged and B40 students.
- Strengthened financial and welfare support for first-generation students.
- Improved food security through Dapur Rahmah, Breakfast Jom and emergency meal aid.
- Rapid assistance for students facing crises, preventing academic disruption.
- New livelihood opportunities through entrepreneurship and hydroponic training.
- Empowerment of rural families, women and youth with sustainable income skills.
- Enhanced campus culture grounded in compassion, dignity and inclusivity.



Infaq Dapur Rahmah Campaign



Infaq Dapur Rahmah Campaign



Disability Van Services: Empowering Safe and Comfortable Mobility



Beyond Ramps and Rails: UMS's Commitment to Inclusive Spaces



Special Education Symposium : Empowering Inclusive and Equitable Learning



Basic Malaysian Sign Language (BIM) Course



# Building Hope, Preserving Heritage: UMS as the Heart of Sustainable Communities in Sabah

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to strengthen its role as a transformative institution dedicated to building inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities across Sabah. Guided by its identity as the Brain of Borneo, UMS works at the intersection of education, culture, technology, and community development—ensuring that its expertise directly benefits the people and places it serves.

Throughout 2024–2025, the university expanded its efforts through a wide range of programmes, partnerships, and community-based activities that bridge academic knowledge with real societal needs. From cultural preservation and disaster preparedness to sustainable urban solutions and rural empowerment, UMS demonstrates how higher education can be a driving force in shaping vibrant, sustainable cities and communities.

Together, these commitments form the foundation of UMS's contribution to SDG 11. The following sections highlight key initiatives that translate this vision into meaningful impact across Sabah's urban and rural landscapes.

**Sustainable Tourism, Eco-Education & Community Engagement** - In conjunction with World Sustainability Day and World Tourism Day, UMS through EcoCampus, DBKK, UMS Alumni, IBTP, and the communities of Kg Darau and Kg Kobuni came together in a shared commitment to strengthen environmental awareness and responsible tourism practices. The Sustainability Enhancement Training Program offered workshops, exhibitions, and experiential activities that built local capacity in sustainable living.

Students, youth, and villagers gained practical knowledge on eco-friendly habits, nature conservation, and community-led tourism.

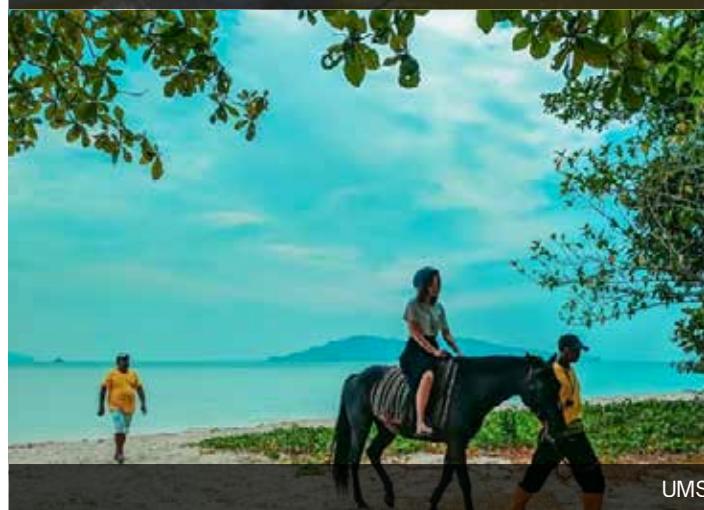
More importantly, the programme nurtured a sense of shared responsibility for Sabah's natural heritage, empowering rural communities to protect the ecosystems that support their livelihoods. By reinforcing the growth of community-based tourism clusters in Darau and Kobuni, the initiative helped cultivate a culture of stewardship as one where people feel confident and supported in safeguarding both their environment and their future.

**UMS-DBKK MoU: Building Greener Journeys for a Better Sabah** - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UMS, FPEP, DBKK, and EcoCampus UMS marks a significant milestone in advancing sustainable tourism across Sabah. This partnership led to the establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Living Lab at the Darau Wetland Eco-Tourism Homestay. It is an innovative space where researchers, students, and local communities co-create new tourism models rooted in sustainability.

The Living Lab strengthens biodiversity conservation, diversifies community income streams, and enhances eco-tourism infrastructure while shaping visitor experiences that are ethical, educational, and environmentally conscious. By uniting academic expertise, municipal leadership, and community participation, this collaboration positions UMS as a key driver of sustainable tourism planning; supporting Sabah's development in a way that honours its ecological richness and uplifts the communities that call it home.



Sustainable Tourism Living Lab at the Darau Wetland



UMS ODEC Beach



Kampung Angkat Madani



BKUMS/UMS 4WDVC Multipurpose House



**Kampung Angkat Madani, Kampung Rampayan Laut: Strengthening Villages, Illuminating Futures** - The groundbreaking ceremony for the Kampung Angkat Madani initiative in Kampung Rampayan Laut marked the beginning of five significant rural development projects: a village gateway, multipurpose hall, community centre, solar-powered lighting, and a new fishing jetty. These facilities are designed not merely to enhance convenience, but to strengthen the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the village.

The upgraded infrastructures improve night-time safety, enable more community gatherings, enhance mobility, and support livelihoods rooted in fishing and tourism. By aligning modern development with the traditions and aspirations of the villagers, UMS helps cultivate resilient rural settlements, places where families can prosper and where progress honours both heritage and future potential.

**BKUMS/UMS 4WDVC Multipurpose House: Creating Shared Spaces to Learn, Grow, and Belong** - The launch of the multipurpose house by BKUMS, UMS 4WDVC, PPEBKM, and PPIB reflects UMS's commitment to creating inclusive, people-centred learning environments. Developed as a dynamic youth and community hub, the space is designed to support academic enrichment, practical skill-building, and social innovation.

What was once an underutilised space is now a vibrant centre for collaboration and creativity, offering students, staff, and local residents a place to connect, learn, and contribute meaningfully to their community. This initiative exemplifies UMS's broader mission to extend its impact beyond the classroom, fostering a culture of belonging, empowerment, and shared growth across the communities it serves.

**MoU UMS-Jabatan Arkib Negeri Sabah – Safeguarding Our Stories for Generations to Come** - The Memorandum of Understanding between FSSK and the Sabah State Archives reinforces UMS's long-term commitment to preserving Sabah's cultural memory; an essential pillar of SDG 11, which emphasises inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities. By collaborating on digitisation, research accessibility, curated exhibitions, and knowledge-sharing between archivists and academics, UMS helps protect invaluable documents, photographs, and records that shape Sabah's identity.

These efforts not only safeguard heritage from loss or deterioration but also ensure that future generations such as students, researchers, and communities, can continue learning from the stories and shared histories that define who we are.

Heritage preservation is a cornerstone of sustainable cities, and through this MoU, UMS strengthens its role in protecting cultural assets that contribute to community pride, continuity, and resilience.

**Official Opening of the TYT Sabah Special Art Exhibition: Celebrating Nature, Heritage, and Artistic Tradition** - The special exhibition featuring 27 landscape and nature paintings by TYT Sabah provided the campus community with a meaningful window into the beauty of Sabah's environment and artistic heritage. Through a collaboration between UMS, GAH, and Balai Seni Lukis Sabah, the exhibition promoted cultural sustainability by nurturing appreciation for local art, creative expression, and environmental appreciation.

By bringing art and nature together, the initiative enriches campus life, reinforces a sense of place, and strengthens community identity; key elements in building sustainable and culturally vibrant cities under SDG 11.

**Fiesta Cahaya 28th Edition: Lighting Up Unity Through Culture and Celebration** - The 28th Fiesta Cahaya brought together over 500 participants in a lively celebration of dance, music, and multicultural expression. The festival enhanced social cohesion, promoted student well-being, and encouraged mutual respect among diverse cultural groups.

By providing a safe, inclusive, and joyful platform for cultural exchange, UMS continues to strengthen campus unity and social resilience as key components of SDG 11's vision for inclusive and sustainable communities.

**TAGAKA'25: Tadau Gawai Kaamatan Celebration: Honouring the Heartbeat of Indigenous Heritage** - TAGAKA'25 celebrated Sabah's vibrant indigenous identity through Sugandoi performances, traditional arts, and the presence of Unduk Ngadau Kaamatan contestants. By uplifting native languages, rituals, and cultural expressions, the event deepened interethnic understanding on campus and strengthened the continuity of indigenous heritage among UMS students. It served as a reminder that cultural preservation is central to building inclusive, cohesive, and sustainable communities.

**“Gurisan Subarang” Exhibition – Where Art Becomes a Bridge Between Cultures and the Soul** - The soft launch of the Gurisan Subarang exhibition at Galeri Azman Hashim featured more than 83 artworks that celebrated creativity, regional identity, and shared stories.



TYT Sabah Special Art Exhibition



Fiesta Cahaya 28th Edition



Tadau Gawai Kaamatan Celebration



"Gurisan Subarang" Exhibition

As visitors moved through the gallery, each piece acted as a bridge—connecting hearts, cultures, and communities. By hosting artists from both Brunei and Sabah, UMS strengthened cross-cultural appreciation and affirmed its role as a vibrant hub of artistic exchange within Borneo. The exhibition demonstrated how art can open spaces for dialogue, understanding, and unity.

**“The Personality of Bornean Art: Real & Imagined”: A Journey Into the Spirit and Imagination of Borneo** - Hosted at Galeri Azman Hashim, this exhibition invited visitors to explore the essence of Bornean identity through both realistic and imaginative artistic interpretations. The showcased works reflected local artists' deep connection to nature, heritage, and lived experiences. Through this creative journey, UMS reinforced its commitment to cultural literacy and provided a platform for elevating Bornean art to wider audiences; aligning with SDG 11's focus on safeguarding cultural diversity within thriving communities.

**Kaligrafi 2025 Exhibition: Where Pen Strokes Tell Stories of Harmony and Heritage** - The 2025 Calligraphy Exhibition, officiated by the Vice-Chancellor, showcased 65 masterpieces from Malaysian and Chinese artists, transforming the gallery into a vibrant arena of cultural dialogue. Each calligraphy work carried the weight of centuries-old tradition, demonstrating how art, language, and heritage intertwine. With competitions involving primary, secondary, and university students, the exhibition fostered intergenerational creativity and strengthened UMS's dedication to arts education and cultural continuity.

**Petak Pertama 2024 Exhibition: Nurturing Young Talent, Inspiring Tomorrow's Creators** - Organised by ASTiF and GAH, the Petak Pertama 2024 exhibition showcased the works of 21 emerging artists from the Visual Arts Technology programme. The platform allowed young talents to present their ideas, identities, and artistic innovations to the public. By empowering students to express themselves through visual art, UMS nurtures the next generation of creative thinkers; supporting cultural vibrancy and contributing to sustainable community development.

**Festival Teater UMS 2024 (Opera X): Where Creativity Takes the Stage and Voices Find Their Power** - Celebrating its 10th edition, the Festival Teater UMS 2024 featured compelling performances by Year 3 theatre students in their capstone production, Opera X.

Through this academic and creative milestone, students demonstrated discipline, artistry, and collaborative spirit. The festival amplified student voices, encouraged exploration of social themes, and strengthened UMS's performing arts ecosystem—affirming theatre as a powerful platform for storytelling, empowerment, and cultural expression.

These cultural and creative initiatives illustrate how UMS nurtures vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich communities. Beyond arts and heritage, UMS further advances SDG 11 through knowledge-sharing, academic discourse, and research partnerships that strengthen social resilience, sustainable urban development, and community empowerment. The following conferences and collaborations demonstrate how intellectual dialogues and applied research also play a crucial role in shaping sustainable cities and communities across Sabah.

**PAPK III 2025: Exploring Humanity to Build a Kinder, Stronger Society** - The Persidangan Antarabangsa Pengajian Kemanusiaan III (PAPK III) 2025 brought together scholars, practitioners, and students to discuss human values, cultural identity, and evolving social dynamics. Nearly 100 academic papers were presented across multiple humanities fields, creating a vibrant space for intellectual exchange and critical reflection.

By fostering dialogue rooted in empathy, understanding, and shared learning, PAPK III contributes to building compassionate and inclusive communities—values central to SDG 11. The conference strengthened collective awareness of social issues, encouraged interdisciplinary thinking, and supported the creation of communities that prioritise dignity, harmony, and cultural respect.

**Borneo Indigenous Development Conference (PPOAB) 2024: Protecting Indigenous Knowledge, Preserving Our Shared Future** - The PPOAB 2024 conference centred on the preservation, empowerment, and future of Borneo's Indigenous communities. It gathered researchers, cultural leaders, and community advocates to discuss Indigenous knowledge systems, sustainable land stewardship, traditional governance, and cultural continuity.

By amplifying Indigenous voices and safeguarding traditional wisdom, the conference contributes to sustainable community development—ensuring that Borneo's cultural heritage remains a guiding force for future planning and resilience. In strengthening Indigenous representation within academic discourse, UMS supports SDG 11's call to preserve cultural diversity and protect heritage that underpins strong, inclusive societies.

**UMS–Winabumi Sdn. Bhd. Strategic Research Agreement: Engineering Innovations for Safer, Greener Communities** - The strategic collaboration between FKJ and Winabumi Sdn. Bhd. focuses on developing lightweight concrete poles to improve infrastructure sustainability and safety. This research-driven initiative connects university expertise with industry needs, driving innovation in green construction materials that enhance energy efficiency, structural performance, and long-term resilience.

By translating engineering research into real-world applications, UMS supports safer built environments and contributes directly to sustainable infrastructure development—reinforcing SDG 11's emphasis on resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible urban systems.

**UMS×Sekretariat Sabah Maju Jaya (SSMJ) MoU: Collaborating for Sabah's Sustainable Future** - The MoU between UMS and the Sekretariat Sabah Maju Jaya (SSMJ) represents a key advancement in state-level planning for sustainable development. Through this partnership, UMS strengthens its role as a knowledge partner in areas such as the blue economy, urban resilience, sustainable resource management, and community development.

The collaboration ensures that academic research, innovative solutions, and community engagement efforts from UMS contribute directly to Sabah's long-term prosperity.

By aligning university expertise with state development priorities, the partnership supports inclusive growth and builds stronger, more sustainable communities across Sabah—advancing SDG 11 at a strategic level.

## CONCLUSION: BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE TOGETHER

Across 2024–2025, UMS demonstrated that sustainable cities and communities are built not only through infrastructure and policy, but through people; through culture, knowledge, shared spaces, and collective care. From revitalising rural settlements and strengthening eco-tourism, to preserving heritage, celebrating the arts, empowering Indigenous voices, and driving research for safer urban environments, every initiative reflects the university's commitment to shaping communities where everyone can belong, contribute, and flourish.

These efforts show that UMS is more than a place of learning; it is a partner to society, a guardian of cultural memory, a catalyst for creativity, and a driver of innovation. By working hand in hand with government agencies, industries, cultural institutions, and local communities, UMS continues to help create environments that are inclusive, resilient, and rich in identity.

As Sabah moves toward a sustainable future, UMS remains committed to nurturing connected, culturally vibrant, and environmentally responsible communities. Ensuring that progress is shared, heritage is honoured, and every generation has a place they are proud to call home.

## Impact at a glance

- Strengthened cultural heritage preservation through MoUs, exhibitions, and art programmes that safeguard Sabah's identity.
- Enhanced community-based eco-tourism in Kg Darau, Kg Kobuni, and Kg Rampayan Laut through training, infrastructure, and Living Lab initiatives.
- Improved rural infrastructure and safety with solar lighting, multipurpose halls, community centres, and upgraded fishing facilities.
- Revitalised public and recreational spaces through large-scale coastal clean-ups and trail improvements at Pantai ODEC.
- Expanded platforms for artistic expression with more than 200 artworks displayed across multiple exhibitions celebrating Bornean, Indigenous, and international art.
- Deepened social harmony and inclusivity through cultural festivals such as Fiesta Cahaya and TAGAKA'25 involving over 500 participants.
- Strengthened Indigenous knowledge and representation through PPOAB and cultural dialogues highlighting sustainable land and community practices.
- Advanced research-driven urban innovation with engineering collaborations (UMS–Winabumi) focused on safer, greener infrastructure materials.
- Informed state-level sustainability planning through strategic partnerships with SSMJ in the blue economy, urban resilience, and community development.
- Promoted academic discourse for social well-being with PAPK III and other conferences engaging nearly 100 researchers in dialogues on culture, identity, and sustainable societal transformation.



# Fostering a Culture of Conscious Living and Sustainable Resource Use

Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12) emphasizes the importance of ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns—a fundamental pillar of global sustainability. It recognises that economic progress and human well-being rely on the responsible use of natural resources and effective waste management. Achieving SDG 12 calls for a transformative shift towards resource efficiency, sustainable business practices, and mindful consumer behaviour. This goal promotes the circular economy concept, where materials are reused, recycled, and repurposed to minimise waste and environmental harm.

In the higher education landscape, SDG 12 provides a guiding framework for universities to lead by example by embedding sustainability across teaching, research, campus operations, and community engagement. Institutions play a vital role in shaping responsible citizens and future professionals who understand the value of environmental stewardship and sustainable living.

For **Universiti Malaysia Sabah** (UMS), SDG 12 resonates deeply with its identity as a Living Laboratory of Sustainability and its mission to nurture environmentally conscious graduates. Situated amid one of Malaysia's richest biodiversity zones, UMS has embraced sustainability as both a value and a practice which translating knowledge into tangible actions that reduce waste, conserve resources, and inspire sustainable habits across campus and communities.

Through education, innovation, and collaboration, UMS continues to advance responsible consumption and production.

Between 2024 and 2025, the university implemented several key initiatives that reflect its commitment to sustainable practices, waste reduction, and the responsible use of materials. Each of these actions demonstrates UMS's holistic approach to turning sustainability awareness into everyday behaviour; bridging knowledge, research, and community empowerment:

**Strawvolution: Metal Straws for a Sustainable Future** - The “Strawvolution” campaign, led by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FBEA) on 6 February 2024, championed the theme “Do Something Drastic, Reduce the Plastic.” In collaboration with SMK Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu, the initiative inspired secondary school students to become change agents in reducing single-use plastics. Through interactive awareness sessions and creative demonstrations, over 300 students and teachers learned about the environmental consequences of plastic pollution and the simple shift to reusable metal straws. Strawvolution stands as a reminder that small individual actions; especially by youth who can create a lasting collective impact towards sustainable consumption.

**Research Collaboration on Green Materials and Advanced Construction Technology** - The Green Materials and Advanced Construction Technology Research Unit of UMS strengthened academic collaboration with the Research Centre for Soft Soils (RECESS), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), in a joint initiative to advance sustainable construction practices.



Zero Waste Zero Pollution

The partnership promoted knowledge exchange on low-impact, eco-friendly building materials designed to minimise environmental degradation and reduce construction waste. This collaborative effort reinforces Malaysia's leadership in sustainable engineering innovation and exemplifies how research partnerships can drive a greener, more resource-efficient future for the construction industry.

**Let's Go Waste Wise! Zero Waste, Zero Pollution** - Held at Kampung Tanjung Aru Lama, Kota Kinabalu, the "Let's Go Waste Wise! Zero Waste, Zero Pollution" programme, organised by the Faculty of Engineering with support from the MyStarfish Foundation, showcased the synergy of education, innovation, and community action. Led by Year 2 and Year 4 Civil Engineering students with participation from Electrical Engineering peers, the three-day programme empowered local residents through hands-on learning. Activities included workshops on the Bokashi Method for composting, soap-making using recycled cooking oil, and a creative DIY pencil case competition. A community beach cleanup further reinforced environmental stewardship. The initiative not only nurtured practical skills for waste reduction but also built a sense of shared responsibility for a cleaner and healthier environment.

**Bring Your Own Plate and Cup/Tumbler (BYOPC) Campaign** – strengthened on 7 May 2025 by the EcoCampus Committee of the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP), the BYOPC Campaign encouraged the UMS community to adopt sustainable habits by bringing their own tableware and drinkware during events and meals at campus facilities.

Complemented by a creative poster exhibition at D'Losun FSMP, the campaign highlighted the environmental cost of disposable plastics and the benefits of reusable alternatives. Post-event feedback recorded a 60 percent drop in single-use item consumption during faculty activities—demonstrating the power of awareness and behavioural change. The initiative directly supports UMS's Zero Single-Use Plastics Policy and reaffirms its commitment to embedding sustainability into daily campus life.

### **CONCLUSION: SUSTAINING CHANGE THROUGH CONSCIOUS CHOICES**

UMS's initiatives under SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) reflect the university's strong commitment to nurturing a sustainable campus culture and responsible community mindset. Through creative education campaigns, hands-on community engagement, and research-driven innovation, UMS continues to transform sustainability principles into real-world action.

From reducing single-use plastics through Strawvolution and the BYOPC Campaign, to empowering local communities via Let's Go Waste Wise, and advancing green technology through Research collaborations, these initiatives demonstrate UMS's holistic approach; where learning, innovation, and community partnerships work hand in hand to promote conscious consumption and resource efficiency.

Moving forward, UMS remains steadfast in embedding sustainability into every layer of university life. Encouraging individuals to make mindful choices that protect the planet's resources for future generations.

## **Impact at a glance**

- Over 300 students and teachers empowered to reduce single-use plastics through Strawvolution.
- Strengthened inter-university collaboration (ie UMS–UTHM) on green and low-impact construction materials.
- Community in Kampung Tanjung Aru Lama trained in waste reduction, composting, and eco-product creation.
- 60% reduction in disposable plastics usage recorded under the BYOPC Campaign.
- Demonstrated UMS's holistic approach to sustainability through education, research, and community engagement..





# Advancing Climate Resilience Through Science, Stewardship & Community Action

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continued to strengthen its leadership in climate action throughout 2024–2025 by driving impactful research, championing environmental stewardship, expanding renewable energy solutions, and empowering communities across Sabah and Borneo. Grounded in its EcoCampus governance ecosystem and supported by multidisciplinary expertise across faculties and research institutes, UMS delivered more than 30 major climate-focused initiatives that directly address biodiversity loss, sustainable forestry, marine conservation, water security, disaster resilience, and the region's shift toward low-carbon development.

From the Mesilou Highlands Climate Change Living Lab to the Coral Nursery Site in Sepanggar Bay, from tubewell and micro-water resilience projects to solar-powered energy management systems, and from groundbreaking Antarctic winter expeditions to Blue Economy Living Labs, UMS continues to operate at the cutting edge of climate science and sustainability innovation. These efforts not only generate new knowledge but also translate research into meaningful solutions for vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

## CLIMATE SCIENCE, RESEARCH & INNOVATION

**Mesilou Highlands Research and Learning Project: Where Science Meets the Clouds** - The Mesilou Highlands Research and Learning Project represents a significant milestone in UMS's long-term commitment to climate science and environmental stewardship.

Developed as an immersive high-altitude living laboratory, it provides an exceptional platform for real-time climate modelling, hydrological monitoring, sustainable highland agriculture studies, and biodiversity observation. This pioneering initiative not only advances scientific understanding of mountain ecosystem resilience but also offers invaluable hands-on learning opportunities for students, researchers, and early-career scientists in strengthening UMS's role as a leader in climate-related research in the region.

**Antarctic Winter Research Programme: From the Poles to Borneo—Knowledge for a Warming World** - UMS's Antarctic Winter Research Programme continues to elevate Malaysia's presence on the global climate science stage. Recognised by The Malaysia Book of Records, the programme demonstrates UMS's capability to conduct rigorous polar research under some of the world's most extreme environmental conditions. Its findings contribute to improved climate modelling, atmospheric studies, and scientific understanding of rapid environmental change. By linking insights from the polar regions to tropical climate realities, UMS helps inform adaptation strategies for vulnerable communities at home.

**International Climate-Focused Conferences: Connecting Ideas, Inspiring Global Solutions** - UMS further strengthened scientific leadership through a series of high-impact international conferences, including the International Tropical Forestry Conference 2024, ICOMSA 2024, ICOG-ITA 2024, and ICBS 2025.

These platforms brought together global experts in forestry, marine science, oil and gas sustainability, climate adaptation, and ecosystem resilience. By convening researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders, UMS helped spark new collaborations, deepen scientific exchange, and accelerate innovation toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY & LOW-CARBON TRANSITION**

**Solar Energy Management System: Lighting the Campus with the Power of the Sun** - The issuance of the Letter of Acceptance to Quantum Sustainable Energy Sdn. Bhd. marks a pivotal step in UMS's transition toward cleaner and more efficient energy use. The forthcoming Solar Energy Management System represents a flagship component of the university's low-carbon transformation, designed to reduce reliance on conventional electricity, minimise carbon emissions, and enhance campus sustainability performance. This initiative reflects UMS's deep commitment to energy innovation, responsible environmental governance, and long-term climate resilience.

**ATOM@UMS (Nuclear Science for Environmental Protection)** - Peaceful Science for a Safer Planet - Through the ATOM@UMS programme, the university promotes informed understanding of peaceful nuclear applications that support environmental monitoring, marine ecosystem protection, and national scientific advancement. By equipping students and researchers with knowledge in nuclear-based environmental techniques, UMS strengthens Malaysia's capacity for low-carbon technology development; spotlighting the role of science, safety, and responsibility in shaping sustainable futures.

## **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

**Coral Nursery Site Launch: Rebuilding Reefs, Reviving Life** - The Coral Nursery Site launch in November 2024 demonstrates UMS's steadfast commitment to restoring Sabah's fragile marine ecosystems. Through coral transplantation, scientific monitoring, and community engagement, the initiative enhances coastal resilience against rising sea temperatures and habitat loss—helping safeguard marine biodiversity for generations to come.

**World Biodiversity Day Celebration: Celebrating Life, Protecting Every Species** - In conjunction with World Biodiversity Day, UMS and IBTP introduced a new biodiversity logo and mascot to amplify public appreciation for Sabah's rich natural heritage.

Supported by the Sabah State UN Committee, the celebration strengthened conservation advocacy while inspiring community participation in protecting ecosystems.

**Bat Rehabilitation Programme: Guardians of the Night, Protected by Science** - UMS's collaboration with the Sabah Wildlife Department on bat rehabilitation reflects its commitment to science-driven wildlife protection. As keystone pollinators and seed dispersers, bats play essential ecological roles. This programme restores vulnerable populations, supports biodiversity research, and reinforces UMS's leadership in safeguarding threatened species.

**“Fungi of Borneo” Mushroom Art Exhibition: Where Art Illuminates the Hidden Forest** - The “Fungi of Borneo” exhibition blended scientific knowledge with artistic expression, using photography and creative installations to highlight the beauty and importance of Borneo's fungal diversity. This initiative strengthened public awareness of lesser-known forest species while promoting conservation through culture and education.

## **FORESTRY, LAND STEWARDSHIP & CARBON SINKS**

**International Day of Forests 2024: Planting Trees, Planting Tomorrow** - UMS commemorated the International Day of Forests with the planting of 300 trees and the awarding of a RM50,000 research grant by Sawit Kinabalu to support sustainable forestry research. New MoUs and Lols further deepened industry-university partnerships, strengthening UMS's efforts in forest conservation, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem protection.

**Sabah State-Level International Forest Day Carnival 2025: Forests for Food, Forests for the Future** - This vibrant three-day carnival brought together communities, industries, and government agencies to celebrate the value of forests through exhibitions, academic showcases, competitions, and eco-tourism activities. The event highlighted how forests underpin food security, cultural identity, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

**Tree Tagging & Geo-Mapping: Every Tree Counts, Every Tree Protected** - EcoCampus and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK) advanced landscape stewardship by tagging and digitally mapping 6,000 trees across the UMS Main Campus. This initiative enhances carbon stock monitoring, supports climate adaptation planning, and strengthens sustainable land management under KRA-9: Green Campus.



Mesilou Highlands Research and Learning Project: Where Science Meets the Clouds



The 2nd International Tropical Forestry Conference



The International Day of Forests 2024 Celebration



Coral Nursery Site Launching Ceremony

Forum Net Zero Borneo



Forum on Future Workplace in Sustainable Agriculture

Climate Change Awareness Campaign

## **MARINE SUSTAINABILITY & BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT**

**Ocean Celebration 2024** - Honouring the Sea, Inspiring Protection - brought together students, researchers, and the community to cultivate deeper appreciation of marine conservation. Through exhibitions, talks, and hands-on activities, the event highlighted the vital role oceans play in climate regulation and strengthened environmental responsibility across the campus.

**International Marine Conferences: Science for the Seas, Solutions for the Planet** - Through ICOMSA 2024 and other BMRI-led international conferences, global experts convened to address issues such as marine biodiversity loss, sustainable fisheries, ocean pollution, and climate impacts. These platforms strengthened UMS's role as a regional leader in ocean science and governance, driving impactful collaborations for healthier oceans.

**Blue Economy Living Lab: Coasts that Prosper, Oceans that Endure** - The signing of the MoA with Beau Villas IBS Sdn. Bhd. marked a significant milestone toward establishing the UMS Blue Economy Living Lab. This initiative integrates academic expertise with industry innovation to advance sustainable maritime development, climate-smart aquaculture, and coastal resilience—supporting both livelihoods and ecosystems.

## **CLIMATE EDUCATION, OUTREACH & SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE**

**UMS Sustainability Enhancement Training Programme: Learning Today, Sustaining Tomorrow** - In partnership with DBKK, UMS delivered sustainability enhancement training to students and community members, focusing on responsible tourism, sustainable living, and practical environmental stewardship. This programme reinforced UMS's role as a regional leader in climate education and community empowerment.

**Student-Driven Sustainability Projects: Youth Leading Change for the Earth** - UMS students, through MPP and EcoCampus, conducted environmental education programmes in local schools—teaching recycling, sustainable innovation, and everyday climate action. These initiatives nurtured youth leadership, strengthened climate literacy, and encouraged intergenerational learning.

**Waste Reduction Workshop & E-Waste Seminar: Less Waste, More Future** - EcoCampus expanded campus-wide waste reduction efforts through specialised workshops and targeted e-waste seminars. These programmes cultivated responsible consumption habits, enhanced resource efficiency, and supported UMS's transition toward a zero-waste campus aligned with SDG 12 and SDG 13.

## **CONCLUSION: STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR SABAH, BORNEO, AND BEYOND**

UMS's SDG 13 achievements in 2024–2025 reflect a university deeply committed to confronting the realities of climate change through science, innovation, and community partnership. From advancing high-impact research in the Mesilou Highlands and Antarctica to restoring coastal ecosystems, expanding renewable energy adoption, and empowering youth through climate education, UMS continues to translate knowledge into action with meaningful outcomes for people and the planet.

These collective efforts reinforce UMS's role as the Brain of Borneo; a regional leader in environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable development. By integrating research excellence, indigenous knowledge, biodiversity conservation, and low-carbon solutions, UMS not only strengthens the resilience of Sabah and Borneo but also contributes to global climate action. As climate challenges intensify, UMS remains steadfast in its mission to nurture informed citizens, protect fragile ecosystems, and drive transformative change toward a more sustainable and climate-secure future.

# Impact at a glance

- 30+ climate-focused initiatives implemented across research, conservation, renewable energy, and community engagement.
- High-altitude climate research hub established through the Mesilou Highlands Living Lab, enabling real-time modelling and ecosystem monitoring.
- Malaysia's Antarctic research leadership advanced, with internationally recognised winter research contributing to global climate models.
- University-wide low-carbon transition strengthened through the Solar Energy Management System partnership.
- Peaceful nuclear science capacity enhanced via ATOM@UMS, supporting environmental monitoring and low-carbon technology awareness.
- 6,000 campus trees digitally tagged and geo-mapped, improving carbon stock data and long-term stewardship.
- 300 trees planted in support of carbon sequestration and forest restoration efforts.
- Coral Nursery Site launched, accelerating rehabilitation of heat-stressed reefs in Sabah's coastal waters.
- Biodiversity conservation strengthened through bat rehabilitation, new mascots for public awareness, and science-art exhibitions (Fungi of Borneo).
- Blue Economy Living Lab initiated, driving sustainable coastal development and climate-smart aquaculture.
- Marine sustainability leadership expanded through international conferences and ocean education programmes.
- Youth climate leadership empowered via student-led sustainability projects reaching local schools and communities.
- Campus-wide waste minimisation enhanced through e-waste seminars, recycling campaigns, and sustainability workshops.
- Regional climate education capacity strengthened, with training programmes delivered in partnership with DBKK.
- Deepened global research networks through international conferences on forestry, marine science, and sustainability.





# Protecting Our Oceans, Sustaining Our Future

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is located within the Coral Triangle, which is one of the richest marine biodiversity regions in the world. This geographical advantage brings with it a responsibility to protect and manage the surrounding marine ecosystems. Guided by its identity as Universiti Lautan Borneo, UMS integrates scientific research, community engagement, education, innovation and policy support to advance SDG 14, Life Below Water.

Through the combined efforts of its faculties, institutes, living laboratories and domestic as well as international partners, UMS contributes to the conservation of marine biodiversity, the protection of endangered species, the strengthening of maritime governance and the development of a sustainable blue economy. These initiatives demonstrate the university's commitment to preserving healthy oceans for future generations.

## MARINE CONSERVATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

**World Biodiversity Day 2024: Biodiversity in Our Hearts, Conservation in Our Hands** - Organised by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, this celebration highlighted UMS's long standing commitment to the conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The launch of the institute's official logo and mascot helped strengthen community engagement, enhance scientific literacy and inspire public participation in conservation efforts.

**Ocean Celebration 2024: Celebrating the Ocean, Inspiring Sea Stewards** - Led by the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, this programme brought together students, schools, researchers and members of the public to raise awareness of the importance of ocean health for climate resilience, fisheries, tourism and human well being.

The event encouraged shared responsibility for marine stewardship.

## STRENGTHENING MARINE RESEARCH, BLUE ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

**UMS and Beau Villas IBS MoA Establishing the UMS Blue Economy Living Lab** - Through the Centre for Blue Economy and Maritime Security Research, UMS partnered with Beau Villas IBS Sdn Bhd to establish a coastal living laboratory. This initiative enables researchers, students, industry and communities to co develop solutions for sustainable coastal development, eco tourism and marine innovation.

**Strategic Forum with Sabah Maju Jaya Secretariat and ESSCOM Securing Our Seas** - This high level session aligned UMS's research priorities with Sabah's blue economy and maritime security agenda. The discussion highlighted the need to balance ecological protection with effective maritime governance, particularly in Eastern Sabah.

**Inauguration of the Blue Economy and Maritime Security Research Center** - The opening of this centre, accompanied by the launch of the Southeast Asia Maritime Journal, marked an important milestone for UMS. The centre now serves as a hub for coordinated research, policy discussions and multi stakeholder collaboration focused on secure and sustainable seas.

## MARINE CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

**Seaweed Planting with Suria Group Sdn Bhd Small Plant, Significant Climate Contribution** - Led by the Borneo Marine Research Institute, the seaweed planting initiative helped restore blue carbon ecosystems that stabilise coastlines, support fisheries and enhance climate resilience. The activity reflects effective collaboration between industry and the university in ecological restoration.

**UMS and Sabah Parks Turtle Sustainability and Edu Tourism Project** - Launched at Pulau Bohey Dulang, this project integrates conservation research with public education and community based tourism. The release of turtle hatchlings created an emotional and educational experience that encouraged visitors and communities to support long term species protection.

**Coral Nursery Site Rebuilding Reefs One Coral at a Time** - The Coral Nursery Site, launched under the Coral Triangle Initiative, provides a structured platform for coral propagation and reef rehabilitation. It involves students, researchers and local communities in hands on restoration work that contributes to the long term resilience of reef ecosystems.

#### **INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY**

**UMS and SCSIO CAS China Bridging Seas and Sharing Science** - Through a Letter of Intent facilitated by CIGA and BMRI, UMS strengthened collaboration with the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology. The partnership supports joint research on marine ecology, oceanography and regional climate impacts while promoting staff and student exchanges.

**UMS and Local Industries MoU and MoAs Industry as a Partner in Conservation** - UMS formalised partnerships with industry players including JSK Mantanani Island Resort, Biocircular Technology, Osmosis Nutrition, Sinar Majutera Travel and Tour and VKL Enterprise. These collaborations support biodiversity research, sustainable aquaculture, eco tourism and responsible local enterprise development.

**UMS and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Kyoto Enhancing Knowledge for Local Ecosystems** - The MoU with RIHN promotes high impact publications, academic exchanges and research that integrates social and ecological perspectives. The partnership strengthens UMSs capacity to address complex sustainability issues involving coastal and marine ecosystems.

**Knowledge Transfer Programme with Fishermen in Kampung Rampayan Laut** - PPEBKM handed over fish traps and safety jackets to local fishermen as part of a support programme that promotes safe and responsible fishing practices. The initiative enhances local livelihoods and encourages sustainable use of marine resources.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COASTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**ODEC Beach Relaxation Programme Caring for the Coastline through Community Bonding** - Organised by PPEBKM, this programme combined cultural performances, community interaction and environmental messages. It also highlighted the ongoing development of ODEC Beach as a sustainable recreational and educational site.

**UMS 30th Anniversary Gotong Royong Cleaner Coasts through Collective Action** - A large scale clean up at Pantai ODEC removed approximately two tons of waste and improved coastal trails. The activity demonstrated the power of community participation in enhancing environmental quality and coastal resilience.

#### **DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE**

**UMS and NCT Group AI Enhanced Sustainable Aquaculture Shipping** - This collaboration applies artificial intelligence to improve aquaculture logistics, reduce product loss, enhance efficiency and minimise resource wastage. The approach supports both food security and environmental conservation.

**UMS and SRIKOM AI Driven Fish Disease Detection** - The initiative integrates artificial intelligence and real time water quality monitoring to detect fish health issues early. This reduces chemical use, prevents ecosystem contamination and supports more sustainable aquaculture practices.

#### **CONCLUSION: STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO HEALTHY AND RESILIENT OCEANS**

UMS continues to demonstrate strong leadership in advancing ocean sustainability through a combination of scientific expertise, community engagement, policy collaboration and technological innovation. These efforts protect the rich marine ecosystems of Sabah and support the communities that depend on them.

From coral reef rehabilitation and seaweed restoration to AI driven aquaculture solutions, from international scientific collaborations to hands on community conservation activities, UMS shows a comprehensive and people centred approach to SDG 14. Through these initiatives, the university remains a dedicated guardian of marine heritage and a champion for a resilient and sustainable ocean.



Marine Conservation Day Camp



Ocean Celebration 2024: Celebrating the ocean, inspiring sea stewards



Seaweed Planting – UMS & Suria Group Sdn. Bhd: Seaweed, small plant, big climate impact



Turtle Sustainability and Edu-Tourism Project of UMS & Sabah Parks: Every hatchling released is a promise to the future ocean.



World Oceans Day: Underwater Cleanup



# Impact at a glance

- Two tons of waste removed from Pantai ODEC during the UMS 30th Anniversary clean up.
- One Coral Nursery Site launched under the Coral Triangle Initiative for long term reef rehabilitation.
- Hundreds of students and visitors engaged through marine awareness programmes including World Biodiversity Day and Ocean Celebration 2024.
- Multiple national and international partnerships formalised to advance marine science and sustainable blue economy development.
- Twenty eight fishermen supported with sustainable fish traps and safety jackets.
- Artificial intelligence based aquaculture innovations developed to reduce environmental impact and improve fish health monitoring.
- Blue Economy Living Lab established as a testing ground for coastal solutions.
- Turtle conservation and hatchling release activities conducted to enhance awareness and species protection.
- Strengthened collaboration with security agencies and state planners to promote effective maritime governance.
- Leadership strengthened with the establishment of the Blue Economy and Maritime Security Research Center.







# Protecting Borneo's Biodiversity, Empowering Communities, and Restoring Ecosystems

Universiti Malaysia Sabah continues to strengthen its leadership in biodiversity conservation, ecological research, and sustainable land management across Borneo. Guided by Sustainable Development Goal 15, UMS advances scientific discovery, community empowerment, and conservation action to protect terrestrial ecosystems, halt biodiversity loss, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Through collaborative research, community partnerships, knowledge sharing, and public engagement, UMS actively safeguards Borneo's highland, lowland, and riparian ecosystems. The year brought meaningful progress in bioprospecting, forest science, ecosystem restoration, wildlife rehabilitation, and indigenous knowledge preservation. These collective efforts reflect a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the richness of Borneo's natural heritage is understood, protected, and passed on to future generations.

## STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

**Bio-Prospect Research and Development Project: Unlocking Botanical Wealth through Science and Partnership** - UMS formalised a five-year collaboration with Yayasan Sabah and the Sabah Forestry Department to advance research on wild mushrooms, wild gingers, medicinal plants, and aromatic species. The partnership promotes conservation-based research sites, scientific capacity building, and the development of bioresource entrepreneurship among communities. Through this initiative, UMS supports the sustainable use of endemic flora while contributing to the preservation of Borneo's ecological diversity.

**Mesilou Highlands Research and Learning Project: A Living Alpine Laboratory** - The establishment of the Mesilou Highlands as a UMS living laboratory reinforces the university's commitment to long-term highland ecosystem protection. This unique alpine landscape serves as a platform for research on climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity monitoring, and environmental education. Students, researchers, and communities now have greater access to hands-on learning in one of Sabah's most fragile highland zones.

**Keluang Conservation Project: Strengthening Wildlife Rehabilitation Efforts** - UMS collaborated with the Sabah Wildlife Department to conserve keluang species. Recognising the vital role of bats in pollination and seed dispersal, the project focuses on rehabilitation, scientific monitoring, and public education to ensure healthy and resilient bat populations that support forest regeneration.

## ADVANCING FOREST SCIENCE AND GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

**International Tropical Forestry Conference 2024: Voices United for Resilient Forests** - Organised by the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, this international conference gathered global experts, policymakers, and researchers to exchange knowledge on sustainable forest management. Discussions covered forest restoration, indigenous governance, climate-adaptive landscapes, and biodiversity monitoring. The event strengthened UMS's global presence in tropical forestry research and innovation.



Wildlife Rehabilitation: Keluang Conservation Project: Guardians of the Night, Protectors of the Forest



Dr. Nurzafarina Othman was awarded the Whitley Award 2025, internationally known as the “Green Oscars.”



Bio-Prospect Research and Development Project (Wild Mushrooms, Gingers & Medicinal Plants

**Borneo Research Council Conference 2025: Integrating Culture, Science and Sustainability -** UMS led major thematic preparations for the Fifteenth BRC Conference, bringing together scholars from multiple regions to advance research on indigenous knowledge systems, environmental sustainability, and biological sciences. The initiative reinforced UMS's role as an academic hub for interdisciplinary research across Borneo.

**Mushroom Art Exhibition: Celebrating the Art and Science of Fungi** - IBTP curated a public exhibition showcasing Bornean mushroom diversity through research displays, photography, and artistic interpretation. The programme strengthened public appreciation for fungal biodiversity while bridging science and creative expression.

#### **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER FOR ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP**

**DaMal Knowledge Transfer Programme at the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area** - UMS worked with Yayasan Sabah to empower local communities in sustainable agriculture and forest restoration. Participants received hands-on training in compost production, fertigation farming, and native plant nursery development.

This initiative enhanced household livelihoods while supporting the protection of the sensitive lowland forest ecosystems around Imbak Canyon.

**BORHiLL River Exploration: Reviving the Cultural and Ecological Heritage of Sungai Darau** - Through BORHiLL, UMS researchers and local participants explored river ecology, watershed protection, and riparian biodiversity. This living lab approach deepened community appreciation for river ecosystems and strengthened environmental stewardship along Sungai Darau.

#### **EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT**

**Deputy Minister of Higher Education's Visit to the Sustainable Agriculture Campus in Sandakan** - The visit highlighted UMS's integrated efforts in sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and conservation education. Engagement sessions with students, tree planting activities, and field demonstrations strengthened policy support for sustainable land management initiatives.



Mushroom Art Exhibition : Fungi of Borneo

## World Biodiversity Day 2024 and IBTP Mascot Launch

UMS hosted the state-level closing ceremony of World Biodiversity Day, officiated by YB Peto Galim. The event, which included the launch of IBTP's official logo and mascot, expanded public participation in biodiversity appreciation and reinforced UMS's identity as a knowledge centre for conservation.

## International Conference on Borneo Sustainability 2025

UMS and the Consortium of Borneo Universities (KUUB) began groundwork for ICBS 2025, engaging regional partners in discussions on conservation, biodiversity management, and sustainable development. These collaborations strengthen Borneo-wide resilience through shared knowledge, research, and policy dialogue.

## CONCLUSION: A FUTURE WHERE NATURE AND PEOPLE THRIVE TOGETHER

UMS's initiatives under SDG 15 demonstrate a cohesive and forward-looking approach to biodiversity protection, ecological restoration, and community empowerment. By integrating scientific excellence with local knowledge and meaningful partnerships, the university nurtures a landscape where ecosystems flourish and communities become active custodians of their natural heritage.

From highland research facilities to river-based living labs, from wildlife rehabilitation to community-driven agriculture, UMS continues to expand its role as a champion of Borneo's terrestrial biodiversity. These efforts ensure that the forests, rivers, species, and cultures of Borneo remain vibrant, resilient, and protected for generations to come.

## Impact at a glance

- Strengthened multi-agency collaboration on bioprospecting and endemic plant conservation
- Expanded UMS living lab ecosystems in highland and riparian zones
- Enhanced wildlife rehabilitation capacity for pollinators and seed dispersers
- Increased global engagement through international forestry and sustainability conferences
- Empowered communities through sustainable agriculture training and native plant nursery development
- Promoted public biodiversity awareness through exhibitions, outreach events, and state-level celebrations
- Strengthened policy support for sustainable land and ecosystem stewardship
- Advanced Borneo-wide cooperation through KUUB and ICBS 2025 preparations.



Mushroom Culinary of Sabah





# Promoting Ethical Leadership, Good Governance, and Inclusive Societies

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and transparent institutions. It underscores that sustainable development is only achievable when governance systems are founded on trust, integrity, participation, and respect for human rights.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), this goal resonates deeply with the university's values of integrity, inclusivity, and accountability. UMS continues to embed good governance practices, nurture ethical leadership, and foster peace and unity through education, dialogue, and responsible institutional management. In 2025, a series of impactful initiatives highlighted UMS's role as a model institution championing SDG 16 principles within academia and the wider community.

**Executive Leadership and Governance Certification Programme** - A flagship initiative reflecting UMS's dedication to SDG 16 is the Executive Leadership and Governance Certification Programme 2025, jointly organised by the Bahagian Kepimpinan dan Pembangunan Bakat (BKePT) and the Pusat Pembelajaran Fleksibel (UMSFLEC). The programme aimed to strengthen leadership and governance competencies among professionals from political, business, and institutional sectors.

Through training modules in ethical decision-making, crisis management, and conflict resolution, participants were equipped to lead with transparency and accountability — directly supporting SDG 16's vision of building effective, inclusive, and trusted institutions.

**Policy Paper on the Development of the Social Cohesion Model for Sabah and Sarawak** - UMS also played a pivotal role in promoting unity and peacebuilding through the Policy Paper on the Development of the Social Cohesion Model for Sabah and Sarawak, submitted to the Ministry of National Unity (KPN).

Led by the Pusat Penataran Ilmu dan Bahasa (PPIB) in collaboration with UNIMAS, UKM, and UM, the study produced an evidence-based framework for enhancing social harmony in East Malaysia. This research contributes to informed policymaking and strengthens social integration — essential pillars of SDG 16 in advancing peaceful and inclusive societies.

**Engagement Session on Risk Management Implementation** - To uphold strong institutional governance, UMS organised an Engagement Session on Risk Management Implementation through the Chancellery Department and the Centre for Strategic Management (PPS). The session enhanced leaders' understanding of risk management frameworks, compliance culture, and accountability mechanisms. By embedding risk awareness within decision-making processes, UMS strengthened institutional resilience and reinforced SDG 16's core values of transparency and good governance.

**Destini Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) Youth Programme @ UMS 2.0** - In partnership with the Institut Kerjasama Kerajaan dan Rakyat (IKRAR), UMS hosted the Destini Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) Youth Programme @ UMS 2.0, officiated by YB Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun, Minister of Finance, Sabah.



Building Minds, Strengthening the Nation : Advancing Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Leadership through Malaysia MADANI Dialogues



Unity Begins Here : Empowering New Students to Uphold Peace, Justice, and Good Governance at UMS



Youth Leadership in a Responsible Digital World :Building Peaceful, Safe, and Accountable Digital Communities



Brain of Borneo, Beacon of Integrity : Empowering Institutional Excellence for Peace, Justice, and Good Governance

The event brought together more than 400 students from higher education institutions to engage with policymakers on state development. It encouraged youth voices in governance and public dialogue — aligning closely with SDG 16.7, which calls for responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making at all levels.

**“In Person With Doc Zam” Programme – Malaysia MADANI Nationhood Seminar** - The dialogue held in conjunction with the Malaysia MADANI Nationhood Seminar, provided a meaningful platform for students and staff to interact directly with the Minister of Higher Education, Dato’ Seri Diraja Dr. Zambray Abd Kadir. The session, themed “Bina Jiwa, Bina Bangsa,” underscored civic identity, unity, and values-based leadership. By fostering open dialogue and mutual respect, the programme strengthened social cohesion and national consciousness among the younger generation.

**Program Mahasiswa Negara @ UMS 2025 (PALAPES UA Commissioning)** - UMS’s participation in the Program Mahasiswa Negara @ UMS 2025 ; featuring the PALAPES UA Commissioning Ceremony. This exemplified the university’s commitment to nurturing disciplined, ethical, and service-oriented graduates.

**Empowering Student Voices through Inclusive Governance** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) promotes democracy and transparency by officially recognising its independent student body via the Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar Universiti Malaysia Sabah (MPP UMS). Established under the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (AUKU) and guided by the UMS Student Representative Council Constitution, MPP UMS serves as the main platform for student representation and leadership.

Elected annually through campus-wide elections supervised by the Student Affairs Department (HEP), MPP UMS represents student voices on academic, welfare, and policy matters, including participation in Senate meetings and university committees. The council also works with national student organisations and NGOs to promote leadership, volunteerism, and civic engagement.

By empowering MPP UMS, the university strengthens student participation, accountability, and transparent governance which reflecting its commitment to SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

**Strengthening Integrity through the UMS Anti-Corruption Policy** - Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) reinforces its commitment to integrity, transparency, and accountability through the establishment of the UMS Anti-Corruption Policy, launched on 15 December 2023. This policy serves as a cornerstone of ethical governance, outlining the university’s zero-tolerance stance on corruption and misconduct.

The policy details UMS’s commitments to integrity, preventive measures, reporting and investigation mechanisms, continuous training, and strict compliance with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 and the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2019–2023. Implementation is led by the UMS Integrity Unit (Unit Integriti UMS) through corruption risk management (CRM), integrity audits, and staff integrity declarations.

Published on the official UMS portal and embedded into staff induction, procurement, and governance processes, this policy strengthens ethical culture and institutional accountability that supporting SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

#### **CONCLUSION: BUILDING TRUST, INTEGRITY, AND UNITY FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE**

Through its unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and strong institutions, Universiti Malaysia Sabah continues to exemplify the values of good governance, transparency, and inclusivity that lie at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 16. Each initiative from leadership training and policy development to civic engagement and nation-building programmes. This reflects UMS’s dedication to shaping ethical, responsible, and compassionate leaders. By embedding integrity and accountability within its governance ecosystem and fostering unity through education and dialogue, UMS not only strengthens institutional trust but also contributes meaningfully to building a just, peaceful, and resilient society for all.



## Impact at a glance

- Enhanced governance and leadership capacity through the Executive Leadership and Governance Certification Programme 2025.
- Strengthened ethical culture and accountability with the implementation of the UMS Anti-Corruption Policy and integrity audits.
- Promoted unity and evidence-based policymaking through the Social Cohesion Model for Sabah and Sarawak.
- Improved institutional resilience via risk management and compliance awareness programmes.
- Empowered student voices and participatory governance through the recognition of MPP UMS as an independent student body.
- Encouraged youth engagement and civic responsibility through the Destini SMJ Youth Programme and Malaysia MADANI nationhood dialogues.
- Fostered patriotism and ethical leadership among graduates through PALAPES commissioning and nation-building initiatives.





# Connecting the World, Advancing UMS Excellence

SDG17 highlights the need for strong collaborations across institutions, communities, and nations to address global challenges effectively. It calls for shared expertise, inclusive governance, and coordinated action.

At Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), partnerships are central to advancing knowledge, driving innovation, and supporting community well-being. In 2025, UMS strengthened its national, regional, and international networks, building alliances that enhance academic excellence and broaden research impact.

Through these collective efforts with universities, government agencies, industries, and civil society, UMS continues to champion SDG 17 and foster meaningful, sustainable progress. The following highlights present key achievements and collaborative initiatives that advanced SDG 17.

**MoU Signing Between UMS and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan** - A significant milestone in advancing SDG 17 was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UMS and the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto. This international partnership strengthens global collaboration in biodiversity research and conservation, enabling knowledge exchange through joint publications, international seminars, and staff mobility initiatives. The collaboration not only enhances UMS's global academic presence but also deepens Malaysia–Japan scientific cooperation, reflecting the essence of SDG 17 through shared research and collective expertise.

**UMS–UNISSA Dual Degree MOA in Islamic Finance** - UMS reinforced its commitment to transnational education through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam, to offer a dual-degree programme in Islamic Finance.

This initiative integrates cross-border curriculum development, academic mobility, and co-supervision, giving students access to both Malaysian and Bruneian academic strengths. The collaboration expands professional capabilities in Islamic finance and demonstrates how shared academic pathways can foster long-term institutional cooperation under SDG 17.

**Launch of the ISN–UMS Satellite Centre and MoA Signing Ceremony** - UMS further advanced multi-stakeholder collaboration through the establishment of the ISN–UMS Satellite Centre, in partnership with the National Sports Institute (ISN) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. This centre enhances national sports science capabilities, strengthens research networks, and provides scientific support for athlete development. By connecting government agencies, research institutions, and academia, the centre exemplifies SDG 17's emphasis on coordinated partnerships that build national capacity and support inclusive sectoral development.

**UMS and Aydin Istanbul University Strategic Academic Alliance** - A key international partnership strengthening UMS's global engagement is the alliance with Aydin Istanbul University. Through a Letter of Intent, both institutions agreed to cooperate in Erasmus+ mobility, joint curriculum development, co-supervised research, and innovation in renewable energy and green materials. The collaboration also includes co-hosting the STAR Global Conference 2025 in Istanbul, creating impactful platforms for academic dialogue and international networking. This strategic alliance reflects the spirit of SDG 17 by accelerating scientific advancement through global academic cooperation.



**Offshore Foundation in Social Sciences Programme in China** - UMS expanded its global educational footprint through the Offshore Foundation in Social Sciences Programme, developed with Ocean University of China and Weifang Vocational College of Food Science and Technology. With contributions from 39 academic staff and an inaugural enrolment of 99 students, this programme promotes cross-cultural learning, academic mobility, and shared curriculum development. It strengthens Malaysia–China academic relations and embodies SDG 17 through meaningful international cooperation in education.

**MoU Signing Between UMS and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)** - At the national level, UMS strengthened domestic collaboration through an MoU with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA). The partnership supports academic mobility, joint research, and co-hosting of conferences and seminars, reinforcing cooperation within Malaysia's higher education ecosystem. This initiative aligns with SDG 17 by promoting shared expertise, enhancing institutional capacity, and encouraging long-term academic partnerships that uplift both institutions.

**Additional Partnership Highlights: Strengthening UMS's Global and National Collaboration Ecosystem** - UMS strengthened its international visibility through enhanced **student mobility programmes** and academic exchanges with institutions such as Kindai University and Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) in Japan, as well as Universitas Padjadjaran and Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP) in Indonesia. These engagements provided UMS students with opportunities for cultural immersion, industrial training, dual-degree pathways, and international research exposure. At the national level, partnerships with Profima Sabah, L.J. Resources Enterprise, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board, and various industry players supported long-term industrial placements, talent development, and hands-on learning opportunities for students across multiple faculties.

In the research domain, UMS further strengthened global scientific collaborations through **joint studies** with Hiroshima University, the Federal Territories Mufti Department, the Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Foundation, and other leading institutions. These partnerships supported **diverse research initiatives**, including biodiversity conservation, astronomical observation, marine sciences, and community-driven innovation. Several collaborations resulted in publications, knowledge transfer programmes, and long-term scientific exchanges that reinforce UMS's role as a research partner of choice in the region.

UMS also deepened industry-engaged research through the **Industry Matching Grant Programme** (IMAP-KPT), securing substantial multi-million ringgit partnerships with companies such as Power Transcoteq & Services, SGS Malaysia, Borneo Quails, DrillTech Engineering, Green Agro Sanctuary, Agri-Sabah Fertilizer, and Biosain Technologies. These collaborations support technology development, product commercialization, prototype testing, and applied research across sectors including biotechnology, agriculture, food technology, aquaculture, and engineering.

UMS also advanced academic development through **curriculum partnerships** with Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), which introduced the Diploma in Syarie Legal Practice (DIJAP) at UMS. This collaboration reflects UMS's commitment to strengthening national academic linkages and expanding programme offerings that support diverse professional pathways.

Collectively, these partnerships across 2024–2025 illustrate UMS's leadership in forging impactful collaborations that foster knowledge exchange, research excellence, industry innovation, and community empowerment. They reaffirm the university's dedication to SDG 17 by demonstrating the power of coordinated partnerships in driving sustainable progress at local, national, and global levels.

## **CONCLUSION: COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

UMS's achievements under SDG 17 reflect a deep and sustained commitment to building meaningful partnerships that transcend borders, disciplines, and sectors. Through international collaborations with institutions in Japan, China, Turkey, and Brunei, alongside strong national alliances with government agencies, public universities, and industry partners, UMS continues to position itself as a connector of ideas, people, and opportunities.

These initiatives demonstrate that impactful progress emerges when expertise is shared, capacities are strengthened, and institutions work together toward common goals. By fostering global research networks, expanding academic mobility, and co-developing innovative programmes, UMS not only enhances its own institutional excellence but also contributes to broader regional and global sustainable development.

As UMS moves forward, SDG 17 will remain a guiding pillar, by empowering the university to cultivate partnerships that amplify knowledge, drive innovation, and advance a more sustainable and inclusive future for Malaysia, Borneo, and the world.



UMS x WHO: Global Health Partnerships for a Malaria-Free Borneo



UMS x UNESCO: Empowering artisans and ecosystems alike — sustainability through education and tradition



UMS x Quantum Sustainable Energy Sdn Bhd : Memorandum Perjanjian (MoA) 'Solar Supply Agreement'



UMS x Flamoff Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd. : Memorandum Perjanjian (MoA) 'Sustainable Fire-Resistant Solution Commercialization'



UMS x Beau Villas IBS Sdn Bhd : Memorandum Perjanjian (MoA) 'Blue Economy and Maritime Security'

# Impact at a glance

- Strengthened major international and national partnerships across Japan, China, Turkey, Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia.
- Expanded global research collaboration, including work with RIHN Kyoto, Hiroshima University, Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Parks, and other key agencies.
- Introduced new transnational academic pathways, including the UMS-UNISSA Dual Degree in Islamic Finance and the Offshore Foundation Programme in China (99 students; 39 UMS staff involved).
- Enhanced academic mobility and staff exchanges, including Erasmus+ opportunities, industrial training, co-supervised research, and student placements with universities such as Kindai University, TUMSAT, Universitas Padjadjaran, and UNDIP.
- Launched the ISN-UMS Satellite Centre, strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration in sports science and national athlete development.
- Secured over RM4.5 million in industry-matching grants through IMAP-KPT, supporting innovation in biotechnology, agriculture, aquaculture, engineering, and food technology.
- Strengthened knowledge transfer and capacity building through workshops, seminars, and innovation initiatives with Schlumberger, Neurogine, PINC Technology, BRIN Indonesia, and industry partners.
- Advanced curriculum development and academic expansion, including collaboration with USIM (DIJAP programme) and other educational partners.
- Increased global visibility through co-organising major events such as the STAR Global Conference 2025.
- Achieved whole-of-university engagement, with participation from more than 30 faculties, centres, and institutes contributing to partnerships and institutional capacity building

# Conclusion



UMS remains deeply committed to nurturing sustainable development across every part of university life. Whether through our research, teaching, community service or daily operations, we strive to contribute meaningfully to the SDG 2030 goals. We also acknowledge that sustainability is a continuous journey. It requires honesty, learning, creativity and the willingness to grow and adapt together.

A holistic approach to assessing and reporting our sustainability efforts is important to us. It helps UMS share our progress clearly, understand the impact we are making and learn from the practices of other institutions. Sustainability influences everything we do, including every process, activity, and decision. Our work is guided by three interconnected pillars: environmental care, social well-being, and economic responsibility. These pillars reflect our aspiration to build a future that is resilient and inclusive.

True sustainability can only be achieved when everyone in the university plays a part. At UMS, we aim to live these values through our policies and through our everyday actions so that sustainability becomes part of who we are and shapes the way we support our community and the world around us.

# Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report 2024–2025. This publication is the result of collective dedication and teamwork across the UMS community, reflecting our shared commitment to advancing sustainability in education, research, and societal engagement.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the UMS leadership team, whose vision and steadfast guidance continue to steer the university towards meaningful and impactful sustainability achievements. We also thank the faculties, research institutes, centres, and administrative divisions whose efforts have brought the principles of sustainable development to life through academic programmes, research innovations, and community-based projects.

We wish to express our special appreciation to the *Jawatankuasa Strategik Kelestarian, SDG & ESG* (JKKSSE) for their leadership in coordinating sustainability governance and monitoring the university's SDG progress. The Strategic Management Centre, as the secretariat, has played a crucial role in facilitating data collection, validation, and the overall preparation of this report.

Our deepest thanks also go to all UMS staff and students, whose passion, creativity, and daily actions breathe life into our sustainability mission. Their engagement in SDG-related activities, whether through research, innovation, volunteering, or campus initiatives which embodies the true spirit of a learning community committed to people and planet.

We are equally grateful to our community partners, government agencies, and international collaborators who have worked hand in hand with UMS to translate ideas into impact, extending the reach of our sustainability initiatives across Sabah, Malaysia, and beyond.

Finally, we acknowledge the editorial, writing, and production team for their dedication in compiling and presenting UMS's progress in this report. Their meticulous work ensures that our story of sustainability is told with clarity, integrity, and purpose.

This report stands as a celebration of collaboration, compassion, and shared responsibility. Together, we continue to build a sustainable future grounded in knowledge, innovation, and collective action. True to its identity as The Brain of Borneo, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to advance sustainability through education, research, and innovation; transforming knowledge into meaningful action for the benefit of people and the planet.



# Disclaimer

The information and data presented in this report have been compiled from verified inputs provided by faculties, centres, and units across Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) for the reporting year 2024–2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the highest standards of accuracy, consistency, and transparency in accordance with national and international Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reporting frameworks.

While all content has undergone careful review and validation, UMS acknowledges that some information may evolve over time as projects progress or new data become available. The university therefore cannot be held responsible for any unintentional errors, omissions, or subsequent changes occurring after publication.

This report represents UMS's collective commitment to sustainability at the time of reporting and will continue to be refined as part of our ongoing efforts to monitor, evaluate, and strengthen the impact of our initiatives for people and planet.



## ***Leading Towards Innovative Societies***



#UMSTheBrainOfBorneo #BrainOfBorneo #UniversitiMalaysiaSabah #UMS #UMSBertekadCemerlang