

# Green tech practices are within reach of all

## Sherell Ann Jeffrey

KOTA KINABALU: Green technology cannot work efficiently if it is not incorporated as part of the community's life culture.

International Islamic University of Malaysia Assistant Prof. Dr Shamzani Affendy Mohd Din said green technology involves implementing environmental science to conserve the environment and resources.

"I do believe that green technology should be part of our life. It is as simple as switching off the lights when we leave our home or switching on the air condition when it is hot, it is just a matter of culture to be developed," he said.

He said this during his talk on a Green Tech Talk organised by the Eco Campus Management Centre of Universiti Malaysia Sabah at its campus here Thursday.

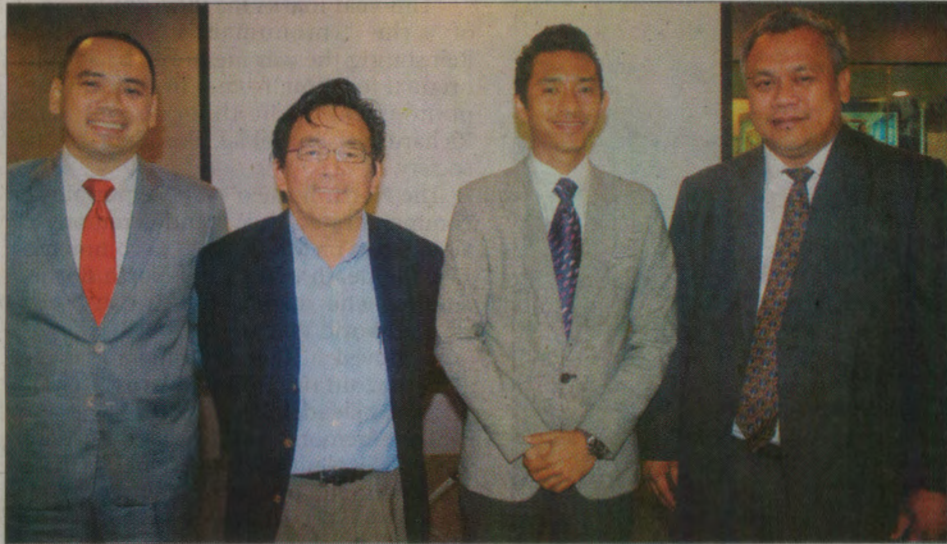
Also present were Universiti Malaysia Sabah (Research and Innovation) Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Shahril Yusof and the Eco Campus Management Centre Director Dr Awangku Hassanal Bahar.

Shamzani cited some green methods applied in Europe where some of its office buildings do not have the heater system because they use body heat to emit heat and China as well as Korea too have their own traditional way of preserving heat.

"Indirectly, if we study history, the green way of life is already there, but nowadays people start to label this as green and that as green when it is actually already there.

"People have used waste as fertilisers and that is already green, thus I believe we should be maintain this green way as part of our life. As the population increases, waste also increases and how we deal with this is we need to maintain our green way of living," he said.

Another panel speaker, an award winning landscape architect, Augustine Wong, of CMW Design Strategies agreed



Shahril (right), Shamzani (second right), Wong and Awangku Hassanal.

that culture has to change and policy has to be made in order to make green technology work.

"We need to let young people know that they need to be thinking out of the box because let's face it, Kudasang is not going to be able to accommodate the food supply because the space is going to be smaller to make way for development, thus we have to think beyond that," said Wong who has more than 20 years experience in the planning and development of sustainable urbanism.

"When I taught my class in the United States on urban design, one of the first things I talk about is policy because unless you change the policy and unless you work with the policy makers you cannot implement green technology efficiently.

"It does not matter what plans you have because you need to have policy and then you have to have people who are willing to look at that and see how we can make that into something much more meaningful," he said.

On that note, UMS (Research and Innovation) Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Shahril Yusof said it is important for policy makers everywhere in the world to take note of that.

"The government should set certain requirements that the developers must fulfil and the challenge for them is how to retrofit all the requirements into their building design," he said.

He cited a hotel in Langkawi where the developers were told by the then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that he does not want them to chop down any trees.

"The developer had to design the building in such a way that one of the restaurants had a tree right in the middle of it because the instruction was not to chop down any trees," he said, adding that if such policy is endorsed then everyone has to follow.

"For me, we have to educate not just the people, but the policy makers as well because once it becomes a regulation then everybody would have to fulfil the requirements," he said.