



The students and guests at the event. Front, from left: Jakaria, Ejria, How Siew Eng, Ismail Ali, Nobuyuki, Hiroshi and Toshimi.

Japanese, Sabah students take part in environmental awareness program at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: An environmental education and public awareness programme was successfully carried out on Thursday between Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) via the EcoCampus Management Centre and Hikkaido Sapporo Keisei High School, a designated Super Science High School, at UMS.

The programme was aimed at addressing questions such as how much are we polluting the ocean with plastics? What kinds of plastics are we polluting our ocean with? Are collaborating enough to work out a global solution to plastic pollution?

The programme commenced with a morning session of microplastic sampling at ODEC, UMS Beach.

A total of eight students from Japan, eight students from SM All Saints Kota Kinabalu, and six students from UMS joined hands to sample for microplastics from the beach at ODEC using the quadrat sampling method.

The sampled sand was later sorted for any plastic debris smaller than 5mm, which was classified as microplastics. Sorting included visual separation, floating, and burning. The data was eventually tabulated and compared with results gathered from Japan (Itanki-hama & Dream Beach)

and Australia (Sunshine Coast).

The highlight of the programme was the 'Sustainability Pledge Signing' Session between UMS and Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School cordially led by Prof. Dr. Ismail Ali, UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni) representing UMS Vice-Chancellor and Hiroshi Nakahara from Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School.

The pledge highlighted the joint commitments towards building a sustainable future for everyone for now and the future in tandem with the aspirations of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (UNSDGs 2030).

Subsequently, all invited guests and students also signed the pledge. The framed pledge was to be kept at UMS and Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School each for continuous reminder and motivation.

The pledge signing session was carried out at the Seminar Room, Borneo Marine Research Institute.

During the session, Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School contributed kind sponsorship to three youth-based environmental sustainability NGOs too, namely Little Feet Initiative (LiFe), Seagrass Guardians, and UMS FEE Committee under the EcoCampus Management

Centre.

These youth-based NGOs are actually established by UMS alumni/students, further showcasing the extension of UMS EcoCampus Agenda beyond campus life and proving that UMS alumni/students are able to make impactful changes to the society and the world.

The programme presentations that followed was started by a talk on EcoCampus Agenda at UMS by Kueh Boon Hee, Deputy Director, UMS EcoCampus Management Centre, inclusive of brief talks from Little Feet Initiative (Elyas Eric Huil), Seagrass Guardians (Michael Yap) and UMS FEE Committee (Ivy Wong).

Next was a talk on the microplastic survey by students from Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School.

Present during the programme were also Prof. Dr. How Siew Eng, Director, EcoCampus Management Centre, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ejria Saleh, Deputy Director (Academic and International), Borneo Marine Research Institute, Dr. Jakaria Dasan, Deputy Director (Corporate Communication), Centre for Strategic Management and Corporate Communication, and Dr. Nobuyuki Tsuji and Mr. Toshimi Oshima from the Hokkaido Sapporo Keisei High School.