SHARE
Model for Leaders

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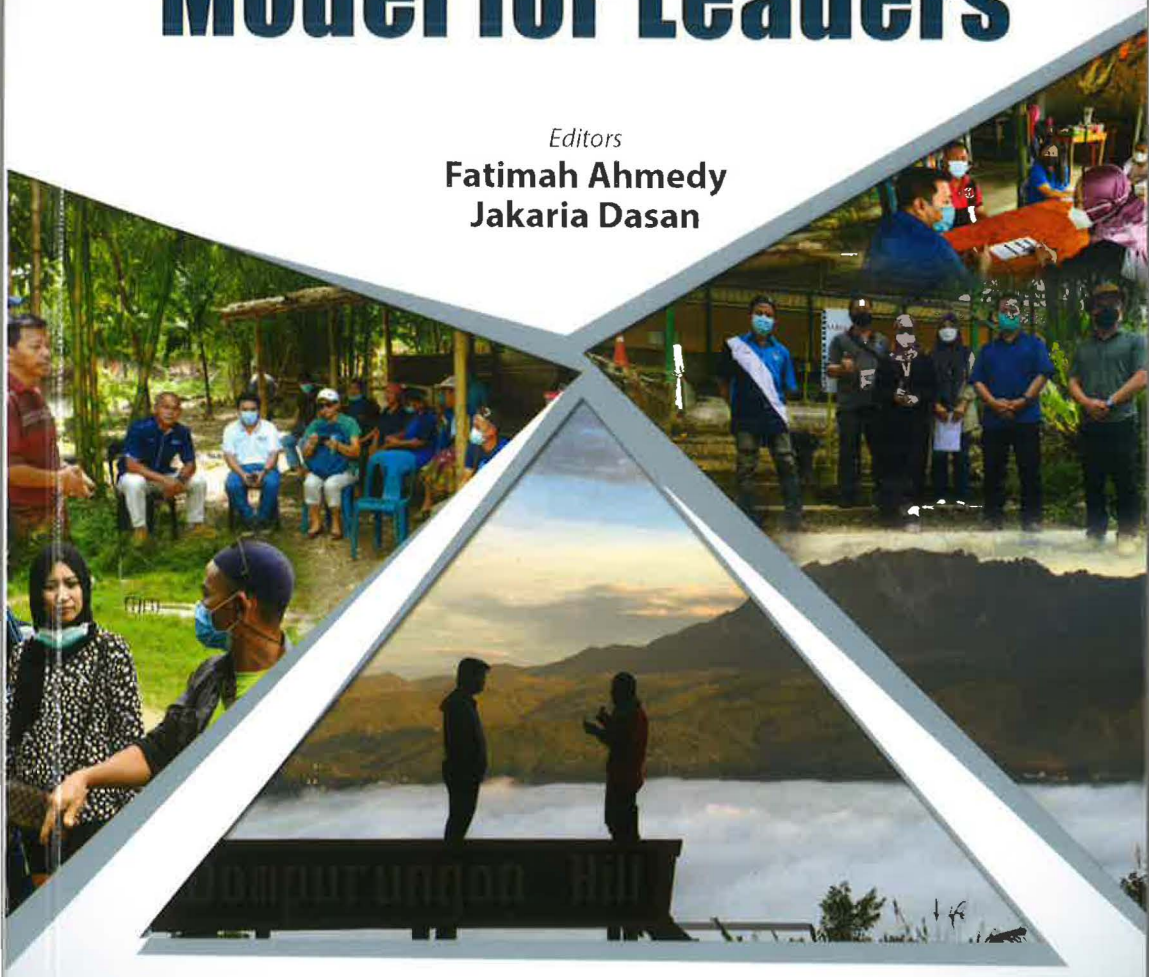

AKEPT HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
AKADEMI KEPIMPINAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI

KEMENTERIAN PENGAJIAN TINGGI

UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

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SDG Leadership: From Concept to Practice

Zakaria Abas

Food security is a concern in Malaysia as it is everywhere. Indeed, it ranks among the world's greatest challenges. It is ranked second among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda which proclaims, "End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture". Sustainable agriculture, by its very definition, reduces harm to the environment, for example through the reduction or elimination of polluting substances such as pesticides and nitrogen fertilisers, water conservation practices, soil conservation practices, restoration of soil fertility, maintenance of agricultural biodiversity and the like. Importantly, sustainable agriculture practices can also mitigate climate change.

Organic agriculture, for example, uses less fossil fuel-based inputs and has a better carbon footprint than standard agricultural practices. This is because conventional agriculture production utilises more overall energy than organic systems due to heavy reliance on energy-intensive fertilisers, chemicals, and concentrated feed, which organic farmers forego. Organic agriculture performs better than conventional agriculture on a per hectare scale, both for direct energy consumption (fuel and oil) and indirect consumption (synthetic fertilisers and pesticides), with high efficiency of energy use.

Crucially, for farmers who have to face increased climate variability and extreme weather events in the near future, sustainable agriculture, by increasing resilience within the agroecosystem, increases its ability to continue functioning when faced with unexpected events such as climate change. For example, organic agriculture builds adaptive capacity on farms as it promotes agroecological resilience, biodiversity, healthy landscape management, and strong community knowledge processes. Given the phenomenon posited, the following sections laid down the initiatives undertaken to translate the SDG Leadership from concept to practice in the context of sustainable agriculture via the shared leadership as the main ingredient by employing universal and spiritual wisdom through perspectives of the Quintuple Helix Model.

SDG Shared-Leadership Through Quintuple Helix Model

The stance taken to materialising the shared-leadership concept for SDG Leadership is distinctively 'human-centric' in its strategic intent and direction. This is facilitated through universal (Islamic) wisdom and perspectives based on the Quintuple Helix Model to formulate the Conceptual Operational Framework on Sustainable Agriculture which is at the heart of the framework anchored specifically on SDG 2: Zero Hunger as depicted in Figure 9.1.

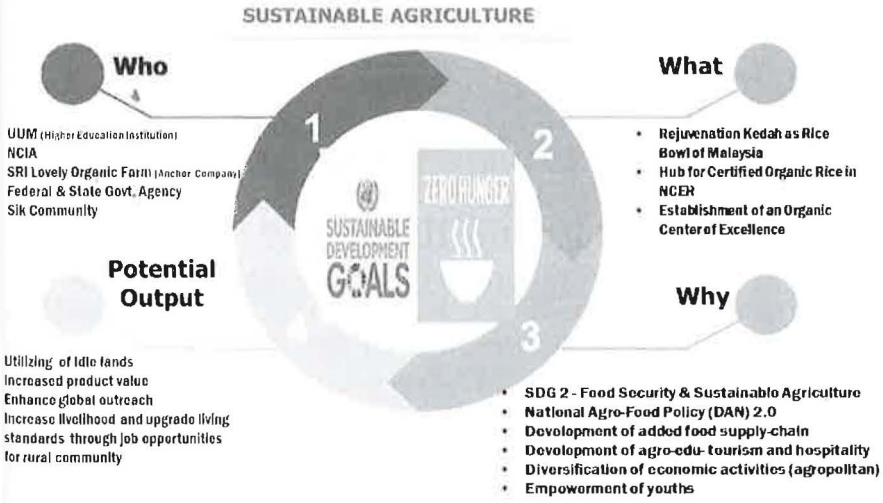

Figure 9.1 The Conceptual Operational Framework©

The model is value-based rather than business-as-usual. The shifting mindset from Sun Tzu's art of war of doing business to Zheng He's art of collaboration of doing business is propagated and encultured to materialise the shared leadership initiatives. Parties involved in championing this visionary project adopting the quintuple helix strategy are the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), the Northern Corridor Implementation Agency (NCIA), SRI Lovely Organic Farm Sdn. Bhd. (Sri Lovely), Menteri Besar Kedah Incorporated (MBI Kedah) and the Sik Community are represented by the Sik Member of Parliament.

All conservation areas within the Sabah Foundation concession offer a variety of attractions and facilities to visitors. Visitors to the Group's conservation and restoration areas have the opportunity to enjoy and get to know tropical rainforests either in uninfected areas or areas that are already or are being restored, with diverse and unique flora and fauna. Among the activities offered to visitors are jungle trekking and waterfall visiting which include the majestic seven-tiers Maliau Waterfall or the 80 feet wide Imbak Waterfall), listening to 'forest symphony' in different situations and times, bird watching, wildlife, seeing majestic large trees and admire stunning views of the tropical rainforest canopy. In addition to providing accommodation and related facilities for researchers, DaMai and other conservation areas in the Sabah Foundation Concession offer various types of accommodation for visitors such as rest houses, hostels and camps. Other facilities include a conference room, mini theatre, EE complex and nature gallery.

Empowering Community for Improved Health and Wellness

Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, Syed Sharizman Syed Abdul Rahim, Mohammad Saffree Jeffree, Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd Alwi, Najjah Salwa Abd Razak and Izwandy Idris

SDG 3 embraces the concept of health and well-being which makes up the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WHO defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". In line with this, the Declaration of Alma-Ata 1978 identified primary healthcare as the key to the attainment of health for all and in the 21st century we are living in, it still is. The declaration also puts a strong emphasis that health as a fundamental human right. Therefore, it is the responsibility of governments to take care of the healthy living of their people by the year 2000. To do this, a government is expected to ensure that its primary healthcare should, (a) include essential healthcare, (b) be