

# Clash between Modernisation and Civilisation

How can Environmental Education mitigate the negative impacts of rapid developments in Southeast Asia through the case study of Kelab Alami?

Topic: Environmental Education in Rapidly Urbanizing Southeast Asia

## Executive Summary

This proposal presents two solutions to the regional issue of environmental degradation in Southeast Asia. Our two-pronged approach is intended to work hand in hand to target the lack of environmental conservation from both a micro and macro perspective by facilitating collaboration between various stakeholders to improve Environmental Education (EE) in the region.

Firstly, our micro approach targets Kelab Alami, a locally-initiated and sustained environmental Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) based in rapidly developing Iskandar Puteri, Malaysia. Through working closely with Kelab Alami, we gained a greater understanding of their existing EE programs. Kelab Alami presents an impressive case of purposeful ground-up EE through informal means. However, the lack of a formalized structure is raised as an obstacle to its effectiveness and sustainability.

We propose a framework for EE that carefully encapsulates both formal and informal methods, derived from successful cases of EE in Southeast Asia, to supplement the existing EE programs of Kelab Alami. Beginning with Kelab Alami, we hope to establish a comprehensive model of EE that can be subsequently adopted by environmental organisations throughout Southeast Asia.

Secondly, our macro approach comes in the form of an interactive environment-focused mobile application, 'Globalee'. Globalee reaches out to environmental organisations, the epistemic community and public users. The application provides a platform to connect users from all around the world to environmental organisations and initiatives around them. The application also provides a news feed function to democratize environmental knowledge and spread environmental awareness amongst users from all backgrounds. The goal of the application is to provide a platform accessible for all to gain awareness of environmental happenings around them and create opportunities for a multitude of stakeholders to collaborate on a more diverse spread of environmental issues.

This focus on EE comes after our investigation of the environmental damage and existing policies in Southeast Asia. Environmental degradation in this region is mainly attributed to rapid urbanization, fuelled by the tourism boom and foreign investment. This rapid development is extremely destructive and does not consider local sustainability as decisions are influenced by foreign investors with vested interest. Despite many policies and agreements put in place, including the ASEAN Plan and Eleventh Malaysia Plan which have been evaluated in the following chapters, the main issue lies in its non-compliance due to the lack

of importance given to environmental conservation. Awareness of the value of environmental conservation is severely lacking in the region. This asserts that EE for all stakeholders, including the state, corporations, organisations and individuals, becomes a key condition necessary to instil an appreciation for environmental sustainability and to generate greater commitment towards protecting the environment for sustainable development in the long run.