to study foreign welfare models, especially success stories from the Scandinavian region. However, it was unanimously agreed that such models would need to recognise local realities and values, and to develop organically from within.

Designing Sustainable Energy Systems for Community Development 2017 (Sabah, Malaysia, 10–15 July 2017)

Shahino Mah Abdullah

This field-based programme was held from 10 to 15 July 2017 in a village called Kampung Buayan, located on the edge of Sabah's Crocker Range, Malaysia. It was organised by an international non-profit organisation, Energy Action Partners, in collaboration with the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The six-day workshop was designed for those who are passionate about community development and making a positive impact through sustainable energy services. Participants were young people from diverse backgrounds, coming from the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, China, India, Somaliland, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. The programme provided both teaching and practical training on renewable energy system design, community engagement, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship. During the programme, all participants stayed with local people, their food being supplied by the host family.

On the first day (10/07/2017), Scott Kennedy, Assistant Director for Educational Initiatives at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Executive Director of Energy Action Partners, introduced the participants to renewable and micro-energy technology. He emphasised four important elements in developing community-based projects, namely equity, efficiency, sustainability, and agency. After that, Gabriel Sundoro Wynn, Asia Program Director at Green Empowerment, and Adrian Lasimbang, founder of TONIBUNG (Friends of Village Development) and Penampang Renewable Energy Sdn. Bhd., presented an overview of community-based micro hydropower system during the afternoon session. Based on their experiences, these systems not only require civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering expertise, but also 'social engineering' works, such as *gotong royong* (a collaborative work with local community participation).

The second day (11/07/2017) focused on feasibility studies. Scott Kennedy, Gabriel Sundoro Wynn, and Adrian Lasimbang taught how to conduct a feasibility study for solar energy and hydropower systems. Such studies are a vital component before potential projects can be proposed. Participants were exposed

to hands-on activities for this field-based study. They learned solar site analysis using Solar Pathfinder and did a site visit to Buayan's micro hydro power house. Then, during the afternoon session, Daniel Ciganovic, a Business Development Director at ME SOLShare, a startup that provides interconnected solar home systems, underscored the importance of smart technologies in order to serve both investor interest and community needs in developing sustainable energy systems.

On the third day of the programme (12/07/2017), Rusaslina Idrus, a member of the Board of Directors at Energy Action Partners, exposed participants to community engagement activities. Participants were divided into several groups and assigned the task of collecting necessary information from the Buayan community through interviews in order to understand their needs and values. The groups then presented and shared their findings accordingly. Then, participants were introduced to the 'Minigrid Game', which was developed by Ayu Abdullah, Regional Director for Southeast Asia at Energy Action Partners. The game was one of the community engagement tools used by the organiser to involve rural communities in the planning of energy systems.

These practical activities provided participants with an in-depth understanding for the fourth day activity (13/07/2017), to travel to a remote village known as Timpayasa and conduct a local energy assessment. As it was a rainy day, participants had to spend almost three hours hiking up several hills and crossing rivers in order to get there. The writer had a chance to participate in this activity, and managed to collect useful information for the 'energy access challenge' from Linsung Matingkas, 74, a Dusun Tagas of Timpayasa. After collecting necessary information, including photos of Timpayasa, all participants returned to Buayan on the same day to analyse their findings using a microgrid software package called HOMER, guided by Scott Kennedy.

After two days of community engagement activities, participants were instructed in how to construct business and operational models for micro-energy systems based on the previous information obtained from local people. This was the primary focus of the fifth day (14/07/2017). In his talk on social entrepreneurship, Daniel Ciganovic emphasised that these models must be sustainable while serving the client's needs. He added that, in order to ensure the longevity of a project, ownership must be clearly stated and knowledge transferred to the community so that the latter could take good care of the facility in the future. Based on the questionnaire provided by Daniel, participants found this session to be very helpful in constructing their group's proposal in the 'energy access challenge'.

On the final day in Buayan (15/07/2017), participants had to finalise their group task before leaving for the Centre for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology (CREATE) in Donggongon, a Penampang township. Adrian

Lasimbang, Founder and Executive Director of CREATE, led a tour of the Centre and briefly explained its role as an energy provider for communities that still live in remote areas. Then, each group had to present its proposal to both the organisers and CREATE's technology experts for evaluation. Several projects were proposed, including Karen Power Bank, Solar-Hydro Hybrid Power System, Kupi-Kopi Community Centre, Health Vending Machine, Malvin's Motor Services and Timpayasa-Tiku's Grid System. The winning group, which was considered to have the most relevant project proposal, proposed the Karen Power Bank. The group was given a chance to use CREATE facilities to develop its project.

The programme officially ended with a lively certificate presentation ceremony led by Scott Kennedy. In conclusion, the writer believes that the programme was indeed beneficial in many ways; it provided the local people with the opportunity to develop future energy facilities, and all the participants with the valuable experiences of living with indigenous people, learning their needs, participating in contributing back to the rural community, implementing classroom lessons, learning to construct relevant projects for societal development and widening their professional networking. At the same time, the programme succeeded in nurturing a shared concern among participants, despite their diverse backgrounds, towards helping the rural community via the development of a sustainable energy platform.

Seminar Kebangsaan Mahkamah Syariah: 60 Tahun Pasca Merdeka (National Seminar on the Syariah Courts: 60 Years after Independence) (IAIS Malaysia, 29 August, 2017)

Tengku Ahmad Hazri

IAIS Malaysia organised the inaugural National Seminar on the Syariah Courts: 60 Years after Independence (SEMAHSYAR, Malay: Seminar Kebangsaan Mahkamah Syariah: 60 Tahun Pasca-Kemerdekaan) to review the accomplishments and shortcomings of the country's Syariah judicial system. The seminar took place at a time when great debate about the Syariah courts is taking place in the country, as part of a wider debate about Islamic law in Malaysia, notably the unresolved issue of overlapping jurisdictions between Syariah and civil courts, as well as human rights criticisms in the application of Islamic law, all issues compounded by recent attempts to expand the sentencing jurisdiction of these courts.