

Asynergistic paddy transformation project by institute of higher learning with the government, for the community, ensuring food security of the nation

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Food security involves ensuring food availability and access for individuals. In Malaysia, particularly in Sarawak, there's a focus on becoming a major food exporter, especially of rice. The Sarawak's development strategy namely Post Covid Development Strategy 2023 (PCDS2030), includes this goal, leveraging the state's resources and land. Local higher education institutions play a crucial role in this effort. Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus (UPMKB) has launched the AgriHub@Gedong project in Gedong district, targeting the transformation of traditional paddy cultivation methods to enhance productivity and sustainability. The AgriHub@Gedong project aims to double paddy production using Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and smart farming, promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve soil health with organic conditioners, and reduce agrochemical use. It also seeks to increase farmers' income by at least 60%, thereby supporting Sarawak's goal of achieving rice self-sufficiency and becoming a net rice exporter. This initiative showcases how higher education institutions can contribute to community development, policymaking, and national goals through technological innovation, data science, and sustainable practices. The project represents a significant step towards enhancing food security and agricultural productivity in Malaysia.

Engaging Minds: A Supportive Ecosystem for Gamification and Innovative Technology in Higher Education Institution

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The paper explores the transformative influence of gamification and cutting-edge technology in modern education. It delves into the integration of game design elements and principles into educational contexts, aiming to enhance student engagement, motivation, and learning outcomes. And how this initiative comes from cumulative efforts made through various departments in higher education to promote, encourage, and support meaningful fun learning that would advance the development of higher order thinking skills. The paper further elaborates the supportive environment for the enculturation of gamification and technology-based education which includes providing training and support to the academics, availability of state-of-the-art technology and learning spaces and a reward and recognition system to continue the effort. Through case studies, examples, and research findings, “Engaging Minds” presents a comprehensive overview of how these advancements are reshaping education. It concludes by emphasizing the potential of gamification and innovative technology to revolutionize teaching methodologies, inspire creativity, and cultivate critical thinking skills in learners of all ages.

INFORMED MOBILITY STRATEGIES IN METRO MANILA AFTER THE PANDEMIC

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The daily mobility of people in the Philippines plays a crucial economic role that cannot be overstated. The day-to-day mobility of people ensures transfer of goods and services and are therefore dependent on the transport systems in a society. The end of the Work-From-Home arrangements of the workforce and students going back to school in person after the pandemic added to the volume of the mobility requirement and drastically changed the traffic jam situations in the country's capital. In a number of surveys conducted online, Manila, Philippines repeatedly appears to belong to the Top 10 named countries with worst traffic situations in the world along with other capitals in Asia namely New Delhi, Colombo, Bangladesh, Bangkok, and Jakarta (Numbeo, 2023). This study explores various scenarios after the pandemic in MM considering factors such as remote work trends, adoption of new technologies, and offsite learning. Review of approaches utilized by other Asian countries with similar issues will be looked at vis a vis the data analyses on traffic movement, public transport system utilization, and the use of private transport in NCR. The results of the study will inform strategies to increase mobility in Metro Manila.