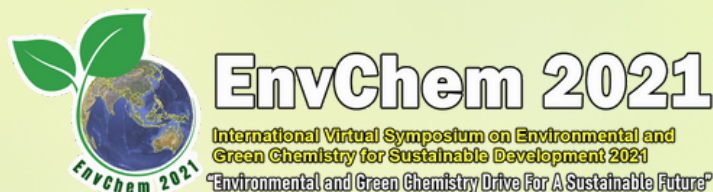


POSITIONING THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA THROUGH INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN CHEMISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021 (ENVCHEM2021)



In 2015, world leaders agreed to both the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the new climate change accord in Paris at COP 21. These milestones give cause for reflection on the role of universities, and in particular, how Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) could contribute to the pressing global priorities of SDGs. By the nature of the university, which is focused on research, innovative teaching and service, and serving the community, the willingness and responsibility are to lead in creating a more sustainable tomorrow through curriculum, research, and services. However, juggling with the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted most of the study and academic activities.



On 9 June 2021, it was a massive achievement for the "1st International Symposium Environment & Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development (EnvChem2021)", which gathered about 240 participants virtually from various countries. The symposium was organised by the School of Chemistry & Environment, Faculty of Applied Sciences (FSG), UiTM Shah Alam. The symposium was jointly organised by UiTM Green Centre (UGC), UiTM and six international co-organizers from University of Batangas State University, Philippines; University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines; Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia; Airlangga University, Indonesia; Sustainable Management Association, Thailand; and University of Krirk, Bangkok, Thailand.



EnvChem2021 had shown significant success and a greater reach internationally. The internationalisation partnership has revived research and academic activities in delivering relevant research output in achieving the SDGs in a global landscape. The theme "Environmental and Green Chemistry Drive for a Sustainable Future" shows the commitment of FSG in materialising the global agenda of the SDGs in UiTM.

A powerful message delivered by the keynote speakers namely Dr Krishna Prasad Vadrevu, Scientist at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Centre, US; Associate Professor Dr Mylene G. Cayetano from College of Science, University of the Philippines in Diliman; Prof Dato' Ts. Dr Mohd Fozi Ali, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of Development (Infrastructure & Infostructure), and professor at Engineering College, UiTM. In addition, 15 parallel sessions had provided avenues to raise and discuss a wide range of research findings and issues related to Environmental Monitoring & Management, Environmental Modelling & Technology, Pollution Control & Mitigation, Climate Change & Sustainable Development, Green Chemistry Techniques, Separation & Purification Technologies and Pure & Applied Chemistry. The symposium had been an excellent opportunity to share experiences and technologies, learn from each other and explore new and future technologies in related areas.

The impactful knowledge from the symposium needs to be disseminated throughout the region, and stakeholders need to continue working together for a sustainable future. Kudos to the local and international organising committee of EnvChem2021!

Conference website: <https://sites.google.com/view/envchem2021/home?authuser=0>

