Social Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement: Transforming Societies

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During the last few years, we received untold pertinent ideas towards the development, research and the proliferation of knowledge and excellent experiences displaying harmony and solidarity between institutions of higher learning and the surrounding community. We not only gained knowledge and experiences from the community but also shared our knowledge and expertise with the community concerned.

At the International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship (ICSE 2014) 7-8 November 2014, two keynote speakers plus a total of 244 participants comprising academicians, researchers, scholars and professionals rallied together and shared valuable experiences and presented interesting perspectives on social entrepreneurship according to various areas of discipline. As a scholar of philosophy and ethics myself, I am particularly pleased to see glimpses of theories that emerged from the two fields being delivered indirectly but succinctly applied when speakers talked about values that shaped social and human development that emerged from community engagement, volunteerism and social entrepreneurship outreach projects. Entrepreneurship activities do not only allow students and communities to become socially responsible business leaders but skills gained from such experiences actually make students, in particular, become innovative, creative and critical thinkers, self-motivated and disciplined, adaptable and most importantly to be able to plan, coordinate and organize effectively as a team. There is therefore much much more values in entrepreneurship than merely being financially literate.

I take this opportunity to congratulate and applaud ISM and SKET for successfully publishing this book. I also wish to add that without cooperation, tolerance and perseverance from all of you, the Committee Members of the ICSE 2014, this book which I believe will be the first of its kind to reach Malaysian bookstores, will not be completed.

I sincerely hope that we will find different means and, better and more constructive ways of continuing discussions, forwarding new thinking and approaches to social entrepreneurship programmes. Let us continue to arrange ideas, knowledge, experiences and success stories to meet the goal of developing partnerships and social empowerment through community engagement.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wawabarakatuh.

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FOREWORD

Many thanks to Allah S.W.T., for His blessings and will, I am granted this opportunity to record my utmost appreciation to contributors of Social Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement: Transforming Societies. Special thanks go to the Social Institute of Malaysia (ISM) and Section for Co-curricular Courses, External Faculty Electives and TITAS (SKET) of Universiti Malaya for inviting contributors and facilitating this book’s publication.

With regards to social entrepreneurship, I hope this book will enrich the experiences and knowledge, as well as unearth creativity and innovation of the readers in order to achieve a balanced social and economic development. This could be attained through community engagement in solving social issues and empowering the community to be more self-supportive to improve the livelihood of the family, local and regional community and the nation.

Social Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement: Transforming Societies is directly in line with the government’s aspirations to expand the knowledge and experiences of relevant authorities, as well as the public through sharing of ideas and engagement with the grassroots. Through these efforts together we can pursue a balanced social development and economic freedom, thus realizing Malaysia’s aspiration of becoming a high income nation.

In line with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development’s aspiration for ISM to uphold herself as a Centre of Excellence in social and social development, this book gives valuable inputs and references for scholars, academicians, researchers, lecturers and specifically for MWFCDS officers and her target groups, as well as public at large. The publication of this book will enhance our knowledge and exposure on social entrepreneurship.

I am confident that this book will become a source of inspiration and example in fostering social unity between the city and suburban folks as well as the village community. I am also certain that readers can enrich their wealth of knowledge by learning from the well-documented experiences and ideas in this book. Whenever we give with sincerity, we will gain with prosperity.

Last but not least, I would like to express my earnest congratulations to all involved parties on the publication of this meaningful book. May Allah bless the endeavours and efforts of all those involved parties in this project. Amin.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wawabarakatuh.

YB. Dato’ Sri Rohani binti Abdul Karim
Minister of Women, Family & Community Development
Social Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement: Transforming Societies
FOREWORD

Alhamdulillah, I take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to the Almighty Allah for His grace and mercy that we are able to publish the full papers presented at the International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship 2014 (ICSE 2014).

The timely publication of this book features among others, best practices and attempts of social entrepreneurs, aims at raising awareness among the public, and catering the need to create social entrepreneurial opportunity and unity among the community, higher education institutions and government bodies. This book also provides an important platform for us to discuss and disseminate skills, knowledge and information concerning the issues pertaining to social entrepreneurship in order to find the best practices for resolving social and economic problems in the community.

It is envisioned that the sharing of knowledge, experiences and expertise pertaining to social entrepreneurship will enable platform for communities, government bodies and universities to meet with academics and professionals in and outside of the country to channel their knowledge, experiences and information to the Malaysian community with a view to solve current social and economic issues that occur in our plural society.

It is my fervent hope that ideas shared by all authors will add to and enhance the sphere of knowledge towards the advancement of social entrepreneurship in the country.

Thank you.

Wassalamu ‘alaikum Warahmatullahi Hiwaharakatuh.

Dato’ Sabariah binti Hassan
Secretary General
Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development

FOREWORD

My utmost gratitude to Allah the Almighty for by His grace and mercy, we had successfully organised the International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship (ICSE 2014) in November 2014, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and University of Malaya.

In Malaysia, social entrepreneurship has become popular and trendy in these recent years, especially among the new generation. Even universities have been venturing into this area, thus aiming to produce creative and innovative students who are able to be social agents and enablers in order to transform and benefit the society particularly in the field of social entrepreneurship. In 2013, the Prime Minister had announced the establishment of Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) aiming to build creative, passionate and driven young entrepreneurs who are not just successful but also play an important role to impact and inspire the society. We believe the field of entrepreneurship will never be the same as yesteryears as we incorporate social aspects into its fold.

As Soosai Institute of Malaysia (ISM) embarks on its mission to become a Centre of Excellence in Social and Social Development, we have introduced a new cluster this year known as Cluster of Social Entrepreneurship and Volunteerism. We are working closely with the experts from various local universities, non-government organisations and associations, the public at large, as well as individuals to design a curriculum that suits the needs of the participants who ultimately will be model social entrepreneurs and volunteers.

Therefore, I believe this book will be another dimension and eye-opener to the readers pertaining to social entrepreneurship. It will provide an insight of the best practices, sharing and experiencing areas ranging from policies, approaches, education, philosophy, ethics, volunteerism, management, partnership, social development, human social development as well as entrepreneurship from both conventional and Islamic perspectives, to academics and non-academics.

Thank you.

Wassalamu ‘alaikum Warahmatullahi Hiwaharakatuh.

Dr. Hj. Ali-Azmi bin Bakar
Director of Soosai Institute of Malaysia (ISM)