CLIMATE AFFAIRS: AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE — DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT

Authors
Khairulmaini O.S.¹; Fauza A.G.²; Mariney, M.Y.³ & Firuza, B.⁴
¹Department of Geography
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Abstract

Society’s awareness and empathy towards the threat of global warming and climate change is very much lacking and needs to be reinforced and strengthened. The importance and significance of climate knowledge cuts across many disciplines that include medicine, economics, politics, business and commerce, law, tourism and many others. However, climate knowledge is seldom or in most cases never utilized in making informed decisions and practices associated with the professional aspects of the mentioned disciplines. It is for this simple reason that appreciation of the importance and significance of the global warming and climate change threat and the whole rubric of societal issues associated with vulnerability and management be integrated into a University academic curriculum design so as to produce graduates that not only appreciate the importance and significance of climate processes, global warming and climate change but would be able to include climate knowledge in the course of their daily activities as a doctor, economist, politician, businessman, commercial entrepreneur, lawyer, policy makers and many other professions. This paper examines and discusses what constitute an undergraduate course in climate, global warming and climate change under the bigger rubric of climate affairs which literally means "climate and affairs of society". The course emphasized the importance of climate science, climate effects and impacts, climate policy and politics, climate law, climate ethics and justice, climate vulnerability and adaptation and climate mitigation. The course emphasized a student centred teaching and learning process based on the problem based learning approach that emphasizes on group project covering any issues within climate affairs studies. The course assessment would be based on end of semester examinations, field work participation and report and the group project report.