

China-Malaysia Village Exchange Program

1.0 Introduction

The Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW) was established in Malaysia in 2017. The goal of AETDEW is to help developing countries achieve the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. All information on AETDEW is available from the AETDEW website www.aetdew.org

In AETDEW's opinion, the most important SDG is the first goal, "Eradicate Poverty", because poor countries do not possess the resources needed to achieve social and economic development as required by the UN SDGs. We must first satisfy the quantity of life: "food, clothing, housing and transportation" (衣食住行) before we can enjoy the quality of life: "music, chess, literature and painting" (琴棋书画). AETDEW is helping developing countries learn from China in her spectacular success in lifting 800 million of her people out of poverty. This success is unparalleled in human history. What is more important, China has been able to make her poor becoming an integral part of her community of moderate prosperity "小康之家" so that they will not relapse into poverty. The foundation of China's success in eradicating poverty is its extensive and inclusive physical and virtual infrastructure. Ultra modern highways, high speed rail, ports, and airports assure that the most remote villages are becoming part of China's global supply chain. As President Xi Jinping often quotes the Chinese saying: "If you want to get rich, build roads first" or in Chinese (要想富先修路).

China has been sharing its spectacular success in eradicating poverty with developing countries through its “Global Development Initiative.” Since 2013, the signature platform has been “the One Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that has drawn the developing countries closer together through infrastructure development in their common endeavour in social, economic and environmental uplift through South-South Cooperation. AETDEW thinks that the villages in developing countries can learn from the social, economic and environmental development of villages in China by visiting villages in China and see at first hand what has been achieved in Chinese villages. In return, Chinese villagers will be visiting villages in West Malaysia, hence the China Malaysia Village Exchange Program

Villages in West Malaysia have been linked by good physical and virtual infrastructure to the rest of the country, but like the rest of the developing world, Malaysian villages are suffering from the rural-urban migration of their youth, Malaysia is considered to be a good test bed for the Program. The Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) and the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Malaysia have been having programs to help uplift villages in Beijing and West Malaysia respectively. BTBU and UTAR are willing to anchor the Program..

2.0 Visit of AETDEW President and Secretary General to Pinggu Village, Beijing

To get personal experience of the successful poverty eradication success of villages in China, AETDEW President Dato Lee Yee Cheong and AETDEW Secretary General Louis Tay visited Pinggu Village of Beijing Municipality. The visit was arranged by BTBU and Dr Yuna Di of BTBU accompanied Dato Lee and Louis Tay. Dato Lee and Louis Tay were very impressed by the development strategy of Pinggu Village to be the agriculture R&D centre of China or the “Agriculture Silicon Valley” of China with a famous university like Wageningen University of the Netherland and the major poultry industrial giant CP Group of Thailand setting up R&D institutes in Pinggu Village. .

Chinese agriculture universities and academies also set up their R&D Centres there. Besides attracting young and educated villagers back from the cities, the village council is run mainly by women. Pinggu Village is famous for its peach fruit. The young returnees from the cities to the village have convinced the villagers to set up a limited liability company, converting their plots of farmland into share holdings. As a result, the farm land for the peach fruit trees is large enough to be mechanized and for modern scientific agricultural methods to be applied to increase peach fruit production several times. Modern methods of packaging and branding have been applied. The Pinggu peach is now sold through the internet throughout China and abroad. Dato Lee and Louis Tay are convinced that villages in Malaysia can learn from Pinggu Village on how to uplift their social and economic conditions. Pinggu Village is very keen to receive villagers from Malaysia and to visit Malaysian villages in return. Recent rain storm prevented visit to Fangshan Village to look at the Mosque and other Muslim aspects of village life as the proposed Malaysian delegation will include villagers from two Chinese villages and one Malay village.



3.0 Malaysian Village Visit to Beijing 15-20 January 2024

A most successful groundbreaking one-week visit by Malaysian village leaders and university students led by UTAR to Beijing villages took place between 15 to 20 January 2024. AETDEW particularly thanks BTBU Vice President Professor Liu Minhua and Professor Di Yuna for arranging the visit. Professor Di Yuna is also the Deputy Chief of Yufa Township, Daxing District, Beijing, China. Three Beijing Villages hosted the visit. They were: 北京市房山区窦店镇人民政府 Doudian Township Beijing; 北京市平谷区峪口镇人民政府 Yukou Township, Pinggu District, Beijing; and 北京市大兴区榆垓镇人民政府 Yufa Township, Daxing District, Beijing

The Malaysian delegation consisted of the following:

(i) 黄顺铭 督亞冷新村村长

Mr. Wong Soon Mun, Tanjung Tualang New Village

(ii) 郑伟宏 柔佛居銮巴罗新村发展官

Mr. Te Wee Hong, Paloh New Village Kluang District Johor

(iii) 努尔·希沙姆·本·阿卜杜勒·阿齐兹梅萨胡鲁山村村长

Mr. Noor Hisham Bin Abdul Aziz, Kampung Gunung Mesah Hulu

(iv) 陈国方 拉曼大学建筑与可持续设计系系主任

Ts Dr Tan Kok Hong, Head of Department of Architecture and Sustainable Design of UTAR

(v) 江开润 拉曼大学软技能资源部讲师

Mr. Kong Hoi Yoon, Lecturer of Department of Soft Skills of UTAR

(vi) 马来西亚拉曼大学学生 6 人

6 UTAR Students

Besides visiting and investigating the agricultural, industrial, and ecotourism development in the three Beijing villages, the Malaysian delegation also visited the Head Office of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.





4.0 Return Visit Beijing Malaysian 29th July to 1st August, 2024

Report By Professor Di Yuna

The initiative on “Village Exchange between China and BRI Countries” was proposed by Dato. Lee Yee Cheong, President of The Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW), during his visit to China in May 2023. It started from villages in Beijing and Malaysia as a pilot program. The Pilot Program was jointly initiated by Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), China and Tunku Abdul Rahman University (UTAR), Malaysia. It is committed to deepening the understanding of the two peoples on the development of rural areas in each country, other's countries, promoting exchanges and cooperation in agriculture, tourism, culture, and education. In January 2024, a delegation from Malaysia led by UTAR visited villages in Beijing. And in July 2024, a delegation from BTBU visited villages in Malaysia.

Here are the return visit activities in Malaysia villages.

1. Welcoming Ceremony & UTAR New Village Project Presentation (UTAR, Kampar Campus, 30th July 2024)

- 1) UTAR welcomes the BTBU delegation and presents their village program since 2009. has collected more than 66 profiles of villages in Malaysia and released them on the website for free use. The faculty and students visit the villages every week for volunteer activities to help the villagers.
- 2) Delegation from BTBU introduces the village exchange program.
- 3) BTBU delegates proposed that UTAR and BTBU can build a Smart Agriculture Base in Beijing and Kampar, for faculties and students to conduct joint research and for villagers. to receive training on skills. UTAR welcomes this idea, and is also conducting this kind of research in the lab
- 4) Both sides also intend to continue to promote the village exchange programs under the MOU between the two universities.

2. Survey on Tanjung Tualang New Village Development (Tanjung Tualang New Village, 30th July 2024)

- 1) New Village Introduction
- 2) New Village Businesses Development
- 3) New Village Education Development

- 4) New Village Potentiality Discussion on Promoting
 - a) Technology exchange on fishing.
 - b) Education exchange, such as book sharing, online educational resources
 - c) villagers exchange to learn more from each other.

3. Survey on Kampung Gunung Mesah Hulu, Gopeng Village development (Kampung Gunung Mesah Hulu, 31st July 2024)

- 1) Malay Village Introduction
- 2) Malay Village Fruits Businesses Development
- 3) Malay Village Tourism Development
- 4) Malay Village Potentiality Development
 - a) Tourism app development to attract visitors,
 - b) Fruit planting technology exchange.
 - c) Villager exchange more frequently.

4. Visit Malaysian Service Providers Confederation (MSPC) and discuss about talent exchange and cooperation. (Office of MSPC, 1st August 2024)

Professor Di Yuna and her colleagues were received by MSPC President Dato Seri Zohari Akob, MSPC CEO/ AETDEW Deputy President Choo Kok Beng, AETDEW Secretary-Genral Louis Tay, AETDEW Treasurer Lawrence Tan and other MSPC Council members.

- 1) MSPC Introduction
- 2) Delegates of BTBU introduced the village program and shared their achievements of the visit.
- 3) Discuss on potential cooperation:
 - a) Based on the China- Malaysia village exchange visit, the villagers of Malaysia expect more technology sharing on Agriculture, and Malaysia government also have the plan for digital agriculture, so a platform for technology sharing, training, and experimentation are necessary.
 - b) An integration of industry-government- research is a sustainable way to promote village exchange,. MSMEs have many members and links with these institutions, and would like to promote bilateral cooperation on agriculture, tourism, technology, law, and related matters. services.
 - c) Other developing countries also welcome this kind of exchange and promote rural development.

MSPC Council was most impressed by the economic activities of Beijing villages and the potential for investment from Malaysia. MSPC decided to send a high level delegation to Beijing to investigate the investment and other potentials of the villages so that their experience and expertise can be emulated by Malaysian villages. Possibly, investment can be obtained from Chinese village enterprises for joint ventures in Malaysian villages.

Welcome by UTAR



Visits to Villages in Perak





Visit to MPSC



After the visit to MPSC, the BTBU delegation and MPSC team were entertained to lunch at the Malaysian Petroleum Club 42nd Floor Petronas Twin Tower No 2 by Dato Lee Yee Cheong



5.0 Follow Up Action

AETDEW has decided to concentrate her limited resources to make a success of the Pilot Program by concentrating on villages in Beijing and in Perak, Malaysia.

Besides the MSPC mission to Beijing in the Autumn of 2024, a visit by villagers from Beijing to Malaysia in 2025 will be arranged by BTBU and UTAR..

As 2024 is the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia and Malaysia will be the Chair of ASEAN in 2025, it is fitting that all efforts should be focused on China Malaysia village exchanges in these two years. When the pilot program has become more established and received recognition from China and Malaysia, AETDEW will then extend the Program to ASEAN and beyond.