



Project	REVIVING TASIK MARYAM
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1. Introduction

Tasik Maryam in IIUM is one of the best features of IIUM, it is called as a canoe heaven for IIUM students and it is a perfect place for students to jog in the evening. Basically this is the place if the students want to release stress by enjoying the scenery, to do the activity kayak and having a picnic with the significant others during the weekend. It is a big regret for losing the precious Tasik Maryam. The aim for this project is to discuss the problem arising at the Tasik Maryam and to tackle the problem by the plan of actions. As IIUM students, it is our responsibility to contribute our effort or maybe some idea to revive back Tasik Maryam so that the students will be able to enjoy the scenery and all activities that can be held at Tasik Maryam. As narrated in a hadith, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri r.a. reported that the Prophet s.a.w. said,

إِنَّ الدُّنْيَا حُلْوَةٌ خَضِرَةٌ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مُسْتَخْلِفُكُمْ فِيهَا فَيَنْظُرُ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ

“The world is sweet and green, and verily Allah is going to install you as vicegerents in it in order to see how you act”. (Sahih Muslim)

Based on this hadith, one of the many lessons we can extract is that the Prophet s.a.w. showed much care and concern towards the environment and aimed at caring and protecting it wholeheartedly. Through this hadith too, he reminds us how we are all vicegerents with a great duty to serve Allah s.w.t. With great powers and status, comes great responsibility. Even the tiniest of efforts can make an impact, can create change, and can affect the environment around them. Solely for the purpose that it is our responsibility to care for the wellbeing of the planet we are living in. As narrated in a hadith, ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar r.a. reported that the Prophet s.a.w. said,

أَلَا فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْنُونٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ

“No doubt, every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock”. (Muttafaqun ‘Alayh)

It matters not the size of the problem at hand, but what weighs greater are the efforts that we consciously put in and take ownership upon what we are responsible for.

2. Problem Statement

Tasik Maryam was a canoe heaven for the students and staff of IIUM GOMBAK, located near the Mahallah Maryam with 1km perimeter, it was a perfect place for those who wanted to enjoy the scenery while doing some physical activities. But, Tasik Maryam is no longer beautiful like it used to be.

Tasik Maryam is now dried and barely has any water on it. It is also polluted due to all the construction and logging works around the Tasik Maryam area. The lights, benches, small huts and other forms of physical necessities are damaged and not being taken care of. Rubbish are also everywhere since there are no authorities that are responsible for it or even initiatives to clean up the Tasik Maryam area.

Tasik Maryam has been ravaged by poorly planned construction near to it. The poor and lack of maintenance are also one of the causes for this to happen. We also do not have any authorities to stop the construction that have been polluting Tasik Maryam or even enforcing any regulations so the construction will no longer pollute Tasik Maryam.

This proposal seeks to develop a proposed solutions and action plan to combat all the issues and revive Tasik Maryam to its original state so that we can enjoy Tasik Maryam like we used to.

3. Proposed Solutions

For our proposed solutions, our first step is to find a suitable organization or body who can take care of and maintain the lake. Since the Development Division of IIUM has a lot of green initiatives, we can contact the Development division in IIUM, arrange a meeting with them and present to them our idea of taking care of Tasik Maryam.

Our second step is to maintain the physical necessities that can be found at Tasik Maryam such as lights, benches, and small huts. To have a better recreational experience in Tasik Maryam, these physical necessities must be well-maintained and be kept in shape periodically to ensure that it does not become a hazard or ruin the landscape of the lake.

Our third step is to place recycle bins around the Tasik so that the visitors have a place to throw their rubbish. Just like the IIUM Gombak campus, the Tasik also needs recycle bins around it. This is to make sure that no one litters the Tasik. We will also inquire from the

Council of Counselling Students (CCSI) to assist us in starting a club to carry out the project by increasing our workforce and integrating with the Development Division of IIUM.

Lastly, the fourth step is to fix and cover up any holes or gaps in the lake that may be caused by the logging works through asking a suitable IIUM body to fix it. By fixing the landscape that is left tarnished by logging activities, we can start our first steps to revive tasik Maryam. We can start by making a discussion with the IIUM Development Division to solve the logging issue as well as to patch up the holes that can be found in the lake.

4. Project's Objectives

The first objective of our project is to get Tasik Maryam back to its original and cleaner state which is not dry as it is now and full of weeds. Tasik Maryam is a place where visitors go for kayaking that is organised by IIUM kayak club for a price of RM1. It is impossible for students to experience kayaking in Tasik Maryam when it is dry. That makes it impossible for the kayak to move around the lake like in the past.

Furthermore, we want Tasik Maryam to become possible for the visitors to do activities that were available before such as kayaking and cycling so that visitors or students can experience something new that they never have a chance to do and make memories during their visit to IIUM or their student life in IIUM. These activities allow them to relax their mind from any kind of stress they are having.

Thirdly, we would like to continue sustaining Tasik Maryam through the long term even after it has been revived so that the future students can enjoy the activities and the scenery at Tasik Maryam by taking care of Tasik Maryam appropriately such as hiring a worker to take care of Tasik Maryam, taking out trash that is full at Tasik Maryam and hiring a cleaner or organise a gotong-royong for student who volunteer to sweep and clean the area around Tasik Maryam.

Additionally, the benefits we can get from this project among them are by making Tasik Maryam one of the key contributions to a greener and better IIUM campus. It is because we would like people to remember that when they think of green IIUM campus they would think Tasik Maryam as one of the contributors. This would make people outside of the

campus wonder how Tasik Maryam looks like and hearing people say good things about Tasik Maryam would improve the image of IIUM.

Lastly, we would like to reduce mosquitoes around the area so that it would not be a breeding ground for mosquitoes because it will bring dangerous disease which is mosquitoes-borne disease which means disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Examples of mosquitoes-borne disease are Zika virus, West Nile virus, Chikugunya, virus, dengue and malaria. By reducing the mosquitoes around Tasik Maryam we could avoid harmful diseases for the visitors and make it comfortable for the visitors who go to Tasik Maryam to enjoy the scenery and doing their activities such as jogging.

5. Action Plan

The first step to our action plan is to inquire from the suitable bodies of IIUM to help us carry out our project proposal. The targeted bodies are the Council of Counselling Students (CCSI) and the Development Division of IIUM. We will ask for the cooperation of the CCSI to help us in starting a club for our project and spreading the awareness of our project. Once we have done that, we will then propose to the Development Division to provide us a management team as well as integrate our project into the 'Sejahtera Academic Framework' which is a framework to improve the academics and sustainability aspect of the university. The 'Sejahtera Academic Framework' can help in ways of raising our project awareness and initiating action for it. We are also hoping to obtain the financial sources from the funding that is approved by the Development Division, as well as open up any for donations within our club.

The second step of our action plan is to further raise the awareness of our project by putting up banners around the Tasik Maryam and spread it through as many social media platforms as possible. This will be carried out by the help and support of our club volunteers and the management team from the Development Division. We will be informing our club to spread the awareness of our project throughout social media as well as creating art challenges for suitable banners for our project. With the help of the funds from the Development Division, we will use it to produce the banners to put it up around Tasik Maryam. We will also start our club's own social media accounts to spread the awareness digitally.

The next step of our action plan is to fix the landscape damage that has been caused by previous logging works in the area. The holes underwater caused by the logging works need to be covered to prevent more drainage of the lake. With the suggestion of the Development Division, a method will be used to cover up the holes and redevelop the landscape that was damaged by the logging works. The concrete pathways of the Tasik Maryam will be rebuilt and fixed as it is also damaged. The rubbish within and around the lake will be assigned by a cleaning team initiated by the help of the Development Division. Damaged plants and trees will be removed and planted with new ones. Mosquitoes sprays will also be implemented during a people vacant session to reduce the amount of mosquitoes dwelling there.

The final step to our action plan is to maintain the physical necessities at Tasik Maryam such as the lights, benches and small huts, and reinstate the beauty of how Tasik Maryam was. We will hire a fixing team to fix the damages of the physical necessities by the help of the order of the Development Division. The addition of recycling bins will also be added as well as warning signs all around the lake in order to warn the visitors about the management of the Tasik Maryam and keeping it sustainable. After the fixing and maintaining of the Tasik Maryam is completed and approved by the Development Division, we will then reestablish the availability of the recreational activities such as kayaking and biking that was previously allowed. With the planned objectives done, it is only left to be maintained and sustained throughout the long term and we hope that the 'Sejahtera Academic Framework' will assist us in achieving that.

6. Conclusion

In a nutshell, as IIUM students we are hoping that we can revive back Tasik Maryam and all the students will be able to enjoy the scenery of Tasik Maryam as the good old days. By doing this project the students will appreciate Tasik Maryam and will protect at all cost as one of the efforts for not losing the precious IIUM tasik anymore. It is a good opportunity for UNGS students to be able to contribute, share some ideas and come out with various ways to overcome this problem. Even though as students it is very limited for us to do something that will change and solve this problem totally but we tried our best within our capability. The moral lesson that we have learned as the group members is that we need to take care and responsible for whatever our acts towards the environment. It is shown by the construction activities and by not taking good care about the hygiene, it affected the ecosystem at Tasik

Maryam. The cost that we need to recover and solve the problem is not a small digit and therefore it is very important for us to think before we act, because anything that we did will affect others, indirectly or even directly. As a group member, we hope that with this project, at least IIUM students aware of the problem arose at the Tasik Maryam and we will be open with any suggestions, ideas or even critics on our project to improve better for the next time. Lastly, we can see that by learning about SDGs, we will be more responsible and aware about our surroundings plus it will make us think on how to counter back the problem that arose even with the limited sources. It is a good thing for students to think outside the box for solving their problems and practice it in our daily life. Take care of earth and she will take care of you.