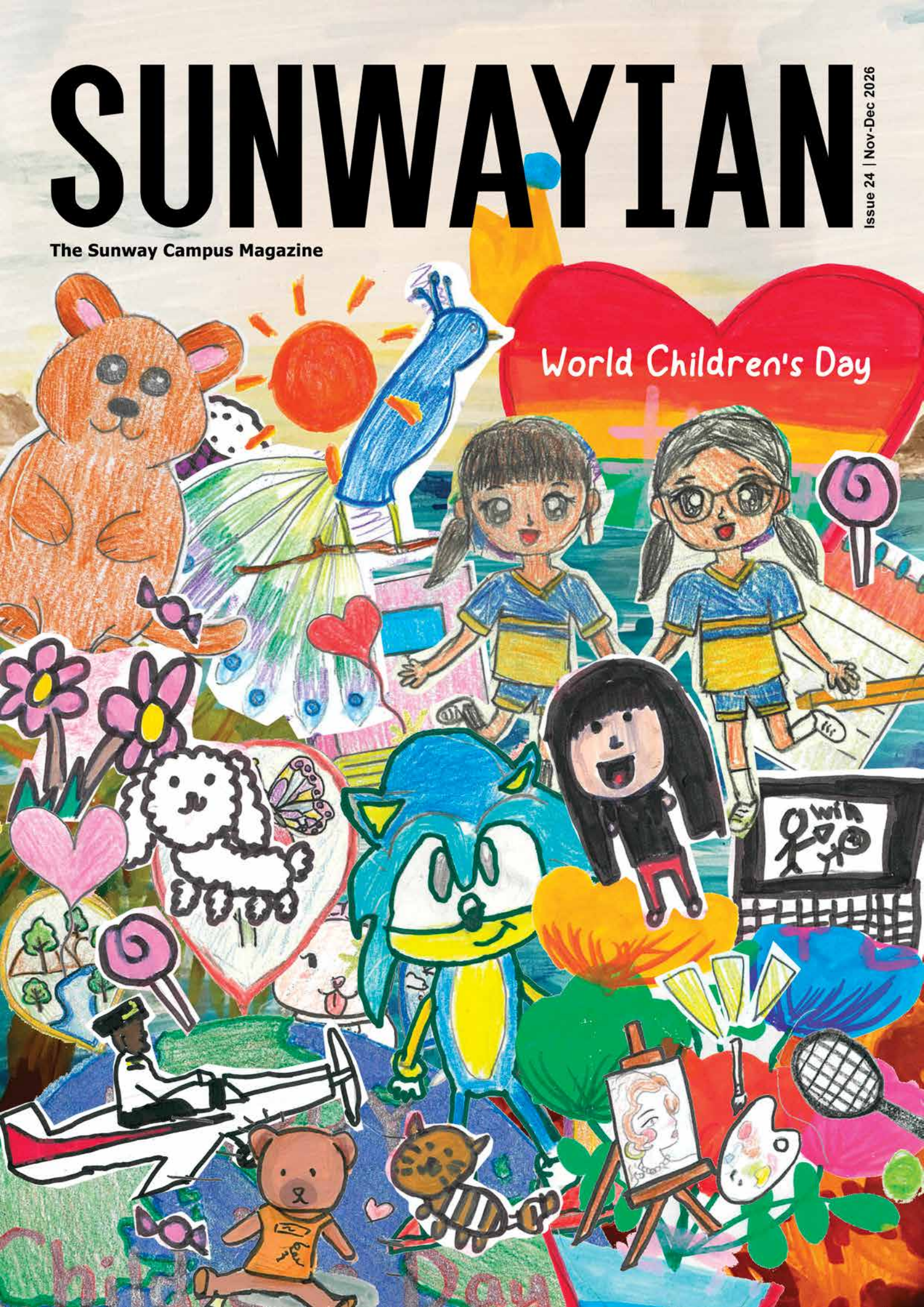
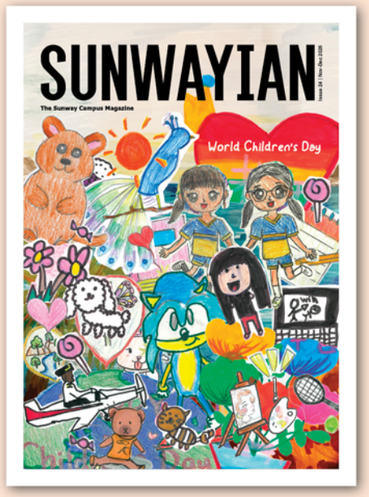
# SUNWAYIAN

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The Sunway Campus Magazine






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**In Case You Missed It**

04 Campus Updates

**Story Highlight**

14 A Million Little Wishes for Tomorrow

**Features**

06 A Triple Alliance for Higher Education and Regional Impact
08 Avenue of Achievements
09 Sunway University Strengthens Global Standing as ASEAN's Top University
10 Global Tipping Points 2026 Sets New Course for Asia
12 Echo Media: ChatGPT is Making You Stupid
16 Sunway International Students: Lyons Latanya Sumire & Minnie Jiang
18 Sunway Alumni: Two Generations, One Legacy
20 Leader's Log: Charting Malaysia's Path Forward
21 Leadership, Values and the Pursuit of Higher Purpose
22 The Green Habits I Never Knew Had A Name
23 Seeds of Connection
24 Little Big Voices: Guardians of the Coast
26 Digitally Fluent Isn't the Same as Digitally Wise



# Hello Sunwayians

Dear Sunwayians, welcome back to the 24th issue of our campus magazine. This time, we are sneaking a peek into a very precious diary, filled with big dreams, curious questions and a few very important plans at the #MostHappeningCampus.

Today's entry begins with a question. Why do grown-ups always ask children what they want to be when they grow up, but rarely ask what kind of world they want to live in?

Well, our little dreamers from Sunway International Schools have a few ideas of their own in this issue's Story Highlight. From imagining a world where everyone works together, like pieces of a giant LEGO set, to one where kindness, creativity and opportunity know no bounds, their wishes remind us that little people can have pretty big ideas.

And speaking of big ideas, take a look at our front cover, brought to life by our very own SIS kids🖍 Through their colourful artwork, they have turned the things they love most into creative expressions of their little worlds.

This issue also celebrates remarkable achievements, from reaching new milestones to putting Sunway University on the global map. There is also the Global Tipping Points conference, where big questions about our planet and its future take centre stage.

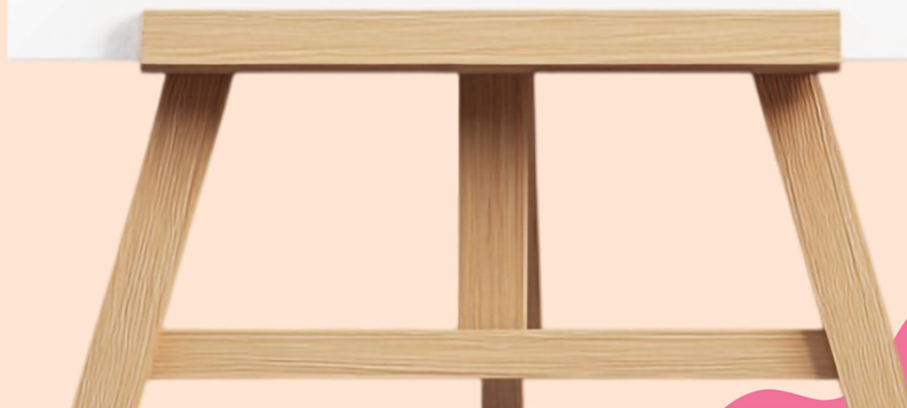
What if making the world a better place does not always require a grand plan? Perhaps it begins with the little things we do every day. Discover how everyday actions add up in 'The Green Habits I Never Knew Had A Name' and find out what lies ahead for Malaysia in 'Charting Malaysia's Path Forward'. After all, building a better future starts with what we do today as a #CampusWithAConscience.

Here is another thing worth scribbling into the diary. Children today can find almost anything online, and the internet can give answers faster than a Hot Wheels car zooming around, but can we trust everything we see online? Our Sunway Diploma Studies team has some useful tips to share, and trust us, even grown-ups could learn a thing or two.

Perhaps that is the thing about growing up. That no matter how much we know, there is always something new to discover. From institutions working together to generations sharing their experiences, this issue is full of reminders that we can learn so much from one another.

So, for World Children's Day, we hope that every child have the freedom to dream, the confidence to speak up and the chance to help shape the world they will one day inherit.

Until the next issue, fellow dreamers. Do not forget to leave a little room for imagination.



## CAMPUS

### Sunway University Leads in Global Sustainability Standing




Sunway University has further strengthened its standing as a mission-driven 5th generation university, emerging as the #1 Private University in Malaysia in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. The recognition places Sunway University among the world's most sustainable universities and reflects its continued commitment to embedding sustainability across campus, education, research, innovation and engagement.




### Shaping Lifelong Learning Begins in the Early Years

Sunway University's School of Education has introduced three new programmes in early childhood education: Bachelor in Early Childhood Education with Special Needs (Honours), Diploma in Early Childhood Education (Conventional) and Diploma in Early Childhood Education (Open and Distance Learning, ODL), providing educators with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills needed to create inclusive and meaningful learning experiences for every child.

### Sunway University Expands Educational Partnerships with Macao Institutions




Sunway University hosted high level delegations from the Macao Special Administrative Region, formalising strategic partnerships with leading Macao institutions to advance student mobility, joint research and regional knowledge exchange. The partnerships reinforce Sunway University's role as a globally connected gateway in Southeast Asia.

## UPDATES

### Sunway Pre-U Friendship Run 2026

The Sunway Pre-U Friendship Run 2026 brought together approximately 700 participants for a morning of fitness, friendship and community spirit. The 5km run raised RM12,000 to support families in need through an upcoming community outreach project with Penggerak Belia Selangor Subang Jaya. The event was made possible through the community's collective effort to make a difference.



### AUSMAT Moon-Viewing at Sunway College

Sunway College's Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) students took their astronomy learning beyond the classroom through two hands-on moon viewing sessions. Guided by their instructors, students calibrated telescopes and used the Stellarium app to observe lunar features including craters and maria. These sessions sparked their curiosity about the universe and deepened their appreciation for astronomy.



### MUFY Student Committee's Project Sunshine



The Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) Student Committee's Social Responsibilities Department organised "Project Sunshine", a volunteering initiative at AiYiDe Old Folks Home. Volunteers helped with daily tasks, including cleaning, changing bedsheets and feeding residents, supported by an online donation drive. They also bonded with residents through canvas painting and other activities, fostering meaningful connections.

### Celebration of Science by MYP Students



The Middle Years Programme (MYP) Science Fair at Sunway International School (SIS) Iskandar Puteri gave MYP students the opportunity to build strong communication and collaboration skills through the exhibition of their projects. It was inspiring to see their dedication to exploring scientific interests and developing critical thinking skills.



### Shaping Curious Imaginations into Bright Ambitions

SIS Kuala Lumpur students across different study levels were all given an opportunity to take on fun challenges using creativity and resilience during Career Week. Filled with new experiences, big ideas and hands-on learning, students explored different careers, worked through challenges and put their teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills into action.

### Happy Malaysia Day from SIS Iskandar Puteri



The campus-wide Malaysia Week celebration at SIS Iskandar Puteri was a vibrant celebration of the nation's rich culture, traditions and diversity. Students across all study levels participated in engaging activities that showcased our nation's heritage and unique identity.

# *A Triple Alliance for Higher Education and Regional Impact*

Monash University Malaysia, Sunway University and Taylor's University recently formalised the Triple Alliance through its inaugural Triple Alliance Philharmonic Orchestra at the Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre. Graced by Malaysia's Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, the landmark event brought together the three university communities to foster connections beyond academia.

Guided by the belief that competition drives excellence and collaboration creates impact, the Triple Alliance will advance joint initiatives in education, research, shared resources, student life and community impact, spanning multidisciplinary research, collaborative programmes, industry partnerships, cross campus experiences and lifelong learning.



The Triple Alliance represents a new model of purposeful collaboration in higher education. Together, the three universities seek to expand opportunities for learners and researchers, address shared challenges and contribute to the advancement of Malaysia and the wider region.

"The Triple Alliance between Monash University Malaysia, Sunway University and Taylor's University serve as a new model for higher education by bringing together the strengths of institutions to create greater impact for the country and region. This approach is aligned with the Malaysia Higher Education Plan 2026–2035, which promotes collaborative networks that enable institutions to share expertise, facilities and resources."

**YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir**
Minister of Higher Education Malaysia

"For many years, I have envisioned Sunway City Kuala Lumpur as a regional hub of excellence for quality education and world class research. The Triple Alliance marks an important milestone, bringing together three universities and an exceptional concentration of talent, ideas and intellectual energy. This ecosystem can help develop the human capital Malaysia needs to become a high-income economy and a more learned and progressive society."

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Sir**
**Dr. Jeffrey Cheah KBE AO**
Sunway Group Founder & Chairman





"The Triple Alliance demonstrates what is possible when leading institutions unite around a shared purpose. By combining our complementary strengths, we can broaden opportunities for our students, accelerate research, and deepen our engagement with industry, government and communities. Together, we are helping position Malaysia as a globally recognised hub for education, innovation and talent development."

**Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman**
President & Pro Vice-Chancellor of
Monash University Malaysia



"As a mission-driven, 5th generation university, Sunway University is committed to advancing excellence in education and research. The Triple Alliance reflects our shared belief that collaboration amplifies that impact, creating greater opportunities for our students, advancing knowledge and innovation, and contributing to Malaysia's aspirations as a leading hub for talent, research and sustainable development."

**Professor Sibrandes Poppema**
President & Vice-Chancellor of
Sunway University



"As an institution that has shaped learners and leaders for nearly six decades, Taylor's understands the power of partnership in creating lasting impact. The Triple Alliance builds on this belief, combining our expertise to create new opportunities for learning, research and innovation while contributing to Malaysia's aspirations to be a leading centre for education and knowledge creation."

**Professor Barry Winn**
Vice-Chancellor & President of
Taylor's University



### Making Waves Beyond Engineering

Congratulations to our fellow Sunway University Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering (Robotics) with Honours student, Koay Yun Sheng, and his team on achieving 2nd runner-up at the Mastercard Future Advisors Challenge 2026. This success highlighted our students' ability to apply their knowledge, creativity and leadership skills beyond their technical disciplines in a competitive environment.




### Sunway University Students Excel in AI Challenge

Congratulations to Hana Tang Yi Hui (Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Artificial Intelligence), Tan Wen Zhe. Nathan (Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Science) and Daphne Ng Hui Qi (Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Accounting and Finance) on winning 1st runner-up at the Think Beyond The Prompt: AI x Human Business Challenge 2026. The achievement showcased their innovative, interdisciplinary thinking and ability to navigate the evolving demands of the AI era..



### Malaysia's Young Tax Professional of the Year

Sunway TES CAE ICAEW student Gan Chia Lian was named the winner of the EY Young Tax Professional of the Year (EY YTPY) 2026 Malaysia competition, outperforming participants from 17 universities in an international taxation case study challenge that tested complex analysis and professional judgement. She will represent Malaysia at the EY YTPY global finals in 2027.

## AVENUE OF ACHIEVEMENTS



### Sunway College JB Leo Club Receives Excellent Club Award

The Leo Club of Sunway College Johor Bahru (JB) received the Excellent Club Award from Lions International. Over the past year, members participated in various community, environmental and volunteer initiatives. The club also raised RM1,000 through its CNY Spring Prosperity Fair to support Pertubuhan Gemilang Istimewa. Through these experiences, members strengthened their leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills.



### Four Golds, One Golden Performance

Yoong Tsu Qi of Sunway International School (SIS) Kuala Lumpur delivered a mesmerising performance together with her team at the Datuk Malek Cup as well as the Malaysia AGG Championship, clinching four gold medals in an impressive sporting achievement. The remarkable triumph served as a testament to her dedication, resilience and sporting excellence.



### A Stroke of Tee-rific Triumph

SIS Iskandar Puteri student, Goh Yu Ruey stood out on the green at the SportExcel Malaysia Junior Golf Tour where she swung her way into second place out of 16 players in her category. The SIS community is immensely proud of the level of commitment displayed and wish her the very best for her upcoming tournament.





# Sunway University Strengthens Global Standing as ASEAN's Top University

Sunway University has achieved a new milestone in global higher education, rising to 283rd in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027 and retaining its position as Malaysia's and ASEAN's No. 1 non-government linked private university. Moving into the world's top 300 universities from the previous 301–350 band, the latest result reflects Sunway University's continued progress in research, international engagement and academic excellence.

The latest THE World University Rankings assess more than 2,000 research intensive universities globally across a comprehensive range of performance indicators covering teaching, research environment, research quality, industry engagement and international outlook. The 2027 edition is the most inclusive to date, spanning 118 countries and territories, and introducing more granular ranking bands to provide greater differentiation between institutions.

Sunway University is now ranked #11 in the world for International Outlook, placing the University among the world's leading institutions for international engagement. The recognition reflects its extensive research collaborations, strong global co authorship and diverse academic community, which together contribute to research excellence, academic influence and global relevance. It also reinforces Sunway University's role in contributing to global conversations on complex challenges, particularly in areas aligned with its mission to advance planetary health, sustainability and social impact.

"Our progress is among the most remarkable in international academia, largely attributed to our Research Quality ranking of #101 and International Outlook ranking of #11 in the world. These achievements reflect a rising number of international students from diverse backgrounds and a remarkably high percentage of high quality publications with international authorship. We are grateful to our faculty, staff, students and partners whose collective efforts continue to drive our momentum," said Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President and Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

As a mission-driven, 5th generation university, Sunway University will continue to build on this momentum by strengthening its academic excellence, advancing impactful research and expanding meaningful partnerships locally, regionally and globally.



# Global Tipping Points 2026 Sets New Course for Asia







The Global Tipping Points Conference 2026 (GTP 2026) was recently held at Sunway University, marking the first time the landmark global gathering was hosted in Asia. Centred on the theme "From Understanding to Imagination to Action: Crossing Thresholds for a Thriving Planet", the conference brought together more than 500 participants from 37 countries, including scientists, policymakers, business leaders, health professionals, faith leaders, investors, communicators and civil society representatives to explore how positive tipping points can accelerate solutions for people and the planet.

Co-chaired by Professor Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Executive Director, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH) at Sunway University, Professor Tim Lenton, Founding Director, Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter, and Professor Johan Rockström, Director, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), GTP 2026 focused on translating scientific understanding into practical action through policy, investment, innovation and cross-sector collaboration.

The conference culminated in three key outcomes that will help carry its momentum into the years ahead:

- The adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Tipping Points Declaration, endorsed by 521 participants from 37 countries, calling on stakeholders across sectors to accelerate action and trigger positive tipping points towards a thriving and resilient future.
- A commitment to develop the first Asia Tipping Points Report, targeted for release in 2028, bringing together regional research and evidence to identify tipping points and opportunities for transformative action across climate, health, nature, food systems and development.
- Insights, recommendations and regional perspectives from GTP 2026 will help shape the future direction of the Global Tipping Points movement and inform preparations for GTP 2027, ensuring Asia's voices and experiences contribute to the global agenda.











The conference was officiated by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Sultan of Perak, who emphasised the importance of bridging science, policy and public action to address planetary challenges. He highlighted the need for cross sector and international collaboration.

"We are facing what we call a planetary crisis. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are affecting communities everywhere," said Professor Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Co-Chair of GTP 2026 and Executive Director of SCPH.

"The conference is important in studying societal tipping points alongside scientific and physical changes to better understand how communities and institutions can drive positive change." Professor Tim Lenton, Co-Chair of GTP 2026 and Director of the Global Systems Institute at the University of Exeter.

"Having Global Tipping Points 2026 in Asia and in Malaysia is important because we are living through multiple crises and need to accelerate positive change. We believe many of the ideas, innovations and leadership needed to shape a wellbeing-centred future will come from Asia," he said.

Another highlight of the conference was the premiere of How to Live on Earth, a visionary feature documentary produced by Open Planet Studios, in association with Villars Institute Foundation and Silvania. Presented by Benedict Cumberbatch, the film explores how humanity can build a safe and thriving future by working with nature, not against it.

In her closing remarks, Professor Dato' Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Education Group, underscored the importance of collective action. "The conversations we have had this week reaffirm that knowledge alone is not enough. Progress happens when people from different sectors, disciplines and communities work together to turn ideas into action. The future we want is still within our reach, but only if we choose to build it together."



Through the Kuala Lumpur Tipping Points Declaration, the first Asia Tipping Points Report and preparations for GTP 2027, GTP 2026 has strengthened regional contributions to the global movement towards a sustainable future.

# ChatGPT is Making You Stupid: The Misuse of AI in Education



Written by: Anjitha
Edited by: Sarah

The expansion of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken over the media these past few years. With software such as ChatGPT and Gemini being able to produce instant essays, images and even conversations with individuals, many have started to wonder what kind of impact it would have on the minds of the younger generation. Previously, one would have to manually search through websites or even physical books to obtain information that they are trying to find. However, this has recently changed as AI started to be integrated into society. The ability of chat bots to generate information at high speeds have changed the way people interact with the media that they consume.

Surveys show that a large number of teenagers have already experimented with AI as a confidant, and although it may help to reduce stress and anxiety, it can also raise concerns about emotional reliance on AI and the substitution of human relationships. Additionally, it poses the question of whether AI is affecting the development of critical thinking skills as well as the ability to process information and learn.

## The Effect of AI on Education

The use of generative AI has become a tool for many students, aiding their academics as well as providing them with more leisure time when their assignments are completed quicker. Open AI data showed that more than 90% of college students used AI for schoolwork in 2025, a number which dropped abruptly once summer break started.

Along with ChatGPT, Medly AI, a study platform designed for secondary and university level students which offers an AI powered tutoring system, has changed the playing field in terms of how students are able to learn, providing the students with personalised instructions and immediate feedback.

However, there are many cases where students have turned to AI for quick answers. Teachers online have expressed frustrations at students using AI, not in a way to expand their knowledge but to cut corners. This in turn has led to the decline in the skills of many high school students. Recent standardised testing data revealed that the reading skills of American high school seniors are at its worst point in nearly three decades, and a third of the students tested did not possess basic reading or critical thinking skills.

The Oxford Dictionary defines critical thinking as the process of analysing information to make logical judgements about its validity. It is an essential skill for academic success and professional competence. However, there has been a notable increase in the reliance on AI tools for information retrieval and decision-making. Overreliance on AI can lead to cognitive offloading, where external tools are used to reduce the cognitive load on a person's working memory. While this can clear cognitive resources, it may also lead to a decline in cognitive engagement and skill development.




Nataliya Kosmyna, an MIT researcher, notes how quickly people have begun to rely on generative AI. Her colleagues began to employ AI, and the job applications she received started to all have the same pattern. Even in job interviews, she noticed that the candidates kept stopping and looking off to the side after she asked them a question, making her wonder whether they were having AI to help them.

To explore this further, Kosmyna, along with the help of some MIT colleagues, set up an experiment. The study highlighted how the use of large language models (LMMs) has a direct cognitive impact. They conducted a study consisting of 54 participants that were split into 3 groups, where each individual was asked to deliver a high school-level essay. The first group were given access to LMMs, the second group was asked to use regular search engines without the assistance of AI, and the third group was granted no search resources at all, dubbed the 'brain only' group. An electroencephalogram was used to record the participants' brain activity.

The results showed that the 'brain only' group demonstrated the highest level of brain activity, the search engine group showed intermediate engagement, and the LMMs group had the lowest brain engagement throughout the study. The LMMs group also reported a lower feeling of satisfaction, most of them stating that they could not remember much of what they had written in their essay, emphasising the need for cognitive engagement and memory.

## The Artificial Illusion

There are many benefits to AI in education, as it provides a 'thinking companion' and can assist students with many menial tasks or explain concepts to them. Nevertheless, students should learn how to use AI appropriately as it can impact their learning experience and hinder them from obtaining essential skills needed for everyday life.



# A MILLION LITTLE WISHES FOR TOMORROW

In conjunction with World Children's Day on 20 November, we are giving the floor to our young voices at Sunway International School. We asked our little juniors a big question: "What kind of future do you want to see for yourself and other children?"



A fair future where everything is equal.

Jasper, Year 9



I hope to see a world where everyone feels safe and not excluded.

Zafra, Year 8



I hope to see a world full of people who want to participate sports even if they're bad or good, I hope they still try.

Sarah, Grade 4





I hope to see the world where we can work together to make it a better place to live.

Mia, Year 10



I hope to see a world where there is no global warming.

Tawan, Year 7



I hope to see a world where kids can take part in the Olympics and win medals.

Isabelle, Grade 4



I hope to see a world where everyone participates more in sports,

Josh, Year 9



Wish for a future where everyone feels safe to be themselves, express their feelings and chase their dreams, without fear, hate or judgement, and where we have the time to truly live, not just survive.

Anne Marie, Year 10

From the world they dream of to the changes they hope to see, discover what a brighter tomorrow looks like through their eyes.




My name is Lyons Latanya Sumire, and I am a 19-year-old mobility student from Japan, currently studying International Hospitality Management at Sunway University while taking IEP Written classes. I am Japanese and American, so people sometimes tell me that I do not look Japanese. Coming to Malaysia for my study abroad experience has given me the opportunity to explore not only a new academic environment, but also a new culture and way of life.

I chose Sunway University because of its international reputation and multicultural learning environment. I was particularly attracted by the opportunity to study in English while experiencing Malaysia's diverse culture. Sunway offers a wide range of courses and has a welcoming community for international students, which made it an ideal destination for my mobility experience. I also liked that the programme was designed to give students both academic and cultural exposure, which was exactly what I was looking for.

Living and studying in Malaysia has been a memorable experience. One of the biggest differences I noticed compared with Japan is the multicultural environment. At Sunway, I have met people from many different countries and backgrounds. Being surrounded by people with different perspectives has broadened the way I see the world and encouraged me to become more open minded.



Outside the classroom, I enjoy exploring Malaysian food, culture and local attractions. There is always something new to discover, whether it is trying a dish I have never had before or visiting a new place with friends. Compared with Japan, I find Malaysia has a very diverse cultural atmosphere, and people are generally friendly and eager to share their experiences with me.

Of course, adapting to a new environment was challenging at first. Being away from home and studying in a different academic setting meant that I had to adjust to many new things. However, those challenges have helped me become more independent and confident. I have learned to step outside my comfort zone, communicate with different people and find solutions when things do not go as planned.

My teachers have also played an important role in making my experience meaningful. I am especially grateful to Ms. Nurul, my first writing teacher. I always looked forward to her classes because she gave me the freedom to express my ideas and created an environment where I felt comfortable asking questions and sharing my thoughts. She helped me identify specific weaknesses in my writing and gave me practical feedback on how to improve. Her guidance strengthened not only my writing skills, but also my confidence. I also enjoyed how she introduced us to Malaysian food and attractions, giving us opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.



I am equally thankful to my IEP teachers, who consistently supported me and the other exchange students. They were always willing to help with our classes, organise activities that helped us feel connected and assist us whenever we faced academic or personal challenges. Their kindness made adapting to a new environment much easier and made my exchange experience more enjoyable.

Sunway has shaped my journey by giving me a supportive environment where I feel comfortable learning, asking questions and trying new things. The lecturers and staff have always been willing to help whenever I faced difficulties, and their encouragement has helped me grow both academically and personally.

For other international students considering a mobility programme in Malaysia, my advice is simple: keep an open mind. Do not be afraid to step outside your comfort zone, make friends with local and international students, and take every opportunity to experience life beyond the classroom. Studying abroad can be challenging at first, but it is also an opportunity to become more independent, adaptable and confident. For me, Sunway has been more than a place to study. It has been a place where I have discovered new cultures, met wonderful people and gained a new perspective on the world.





SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS




My name is Minnie Jiang, I am 18 years old and I am from China. I am currently studying Grade 11 in the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) programme at Sunway International School Kuala Lumpur campus. I am honoured to have been selected as a Valedictorian, which is a meaningful milestone in my academic journey. Besides academics, I am actively involved in school activities, including the student council, the assembly team, and creative projects.

What I like most about Sunway is that it gives students opportunities to explore different interests, not just focus on academics. I can participate in leadership activities, creative projects, and school events while developing my confidence and communication skills. I also appreciate the international environment because I get to meet people from different backgrounds and learn from their perspectives.

Moving from China to Malaysia was a big change for me, especially because I had to adapt to a new environment and study in English. At first, it was challenging, and I sometimes struggled to express myself confidently. Over time, however, I became more comfortable communicating with others and participating in school activities. Living in Malaysia has helped me become more independent, open-minded, and willing to step out of my comfort zone.






I am truly grateful to the teachers who have always believed in my abilities and encouraged me to try new things. Their support has helped me become more confident, especially when taking on leadership roles or participating in school events. My classmates have also made a difference because working together has taught me how to communicate, cooperate and learn new things from different perspectives.

Sunway has helped me grow not only academically, but also personally. Through the OSSD programme, I have learned to think more independently, manage my time, and take responsibility for my learning. At the same time, joining school activities has helped me develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. I think one of the most important things I have learned is that education is not only about grades, but also about discovering who you are and what you want to achieve.

My advice to other international students would be to stay open-minded and give yourself time to adapt. Moving to a new country can feel overwhelming at first, especially when you are learning in a different language or adjusting to a different culture. Do not be afraid to make mistakes, ask questions or talk to new people. I would also encourage students to get involved in school activities because some of the best learning experiences happen outside the classroom. Most importantly, be patient with yourself and remember that growth takes time.

# Two Generations, One Legacy

For Sunway Alumni mother-daughter Karen Lee See Bee and Angel Ng Kah Mun, Sunway is more than an alma mater. It is a shared chapter in their family story, connecting two generations through a common legacy.

Karen completed the Tertiary Entrance Examination at Sunway before continuing with the Sunway and University of Western Australia Twinning Programme, graduating in 1992. When Karen first arrived at Sunway's former campus in Petaling Jaya, she remembered the bustling registration process, with students and parents gathered in a small seating area and an even smaller registration room. Among her most memorable experiences was being part of Sunway's first Student Council. The role prepared her for life beyond university, allowing her to develop organisational skills while helping to organise the campus' first carnival and learn valuable lessons along the way.

After graduating, Karen spent several years in the corporate sector and met a professional mentor who helped her grow from an introverted accountant into a Company Secretary and Corporate Advisor. Motivated by the guidance, she found her own calling in helping others.

Believing in the power of paying it forward and having benefited from people who believed in her, Karen sees giving back as a way of honouring their support. When she learnt about Sunway's Community Scholars initiative, she felt moved to give back to the community that had helped shape her journey by becoming a donor.

For Karen, supporting students goes beyond financial contributions. Inspired by her mentor's commitment to nurturing future generations through meaningful action, she also volunteers her time to mentor Sunway students. Her mentoring sessions draw from real workplace experiences and practical guidance to help students prepare for their internships and jobs. She believes many students are already hardworking and capable, but may lack the networks, role models or opportunities to show their potential.





*Karen received the Giving Sunwayian Award 2025, which recognises alumni whose dedication and contributions to Sunway institutions' programmes and activities have enriched the community and strengthened the institution. It celebrates alumni who embody the values of the 5T pillars, Time, Talent, Treasure, Ties and Testimony through their meaningful contributions. This recognition honours individuals who create a lasting positive impact within the Sunway community.*

Watching her mentees grow in confidence and gain clarity about their futures has been rewarding. Karen hopes her contribution will empower Community Scholars to continue learning, progress in their chosen paths, and eventually give back to their communities. She encourages fellow alumni to support others, whether financially or through their time and experience. After all, an opportunity extended to someone today may create a ripple effect that reaches others tomorrow.

Karen's Sunway journey came full circle when Angel pursued a Diploma in Nursing at the same institution, graduating in 2024 before joining Sunway Medical Centre as a nurse. Inspired by her mother's stories, she felt a sense of curiosity and pride to study at a university that was already part of their family's story.

Angel had not always envisioned a career in nursing but gradually discovered her desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Nursing offered her a way to combine





knowledge, compassion and practical skills to care for others. Starting her studies during the COVID-19 pandemic with virtual classes, she gradually immersed herself in university life through skills laboratory sessions, clinical training and, eventually, graduation.

The support of those around her and the purpose behind her studies helped Angel through difficult periods. Karen reminded her that university was about more than grades, a lesson Angel came to appreciate through clinical placements, friendships and experiences beyond the classroom. Her time at Sunway also revealed a resilience she had not always recognised in herself. Among her most cherished memories was graduation day. After completing much of her diploma online, walking across the stage with her classmates filled her with relief, pride and gratitude.

Watching her mother give back taught Angel that success is most meaningful when used to help others. She learnt that generosity need not always be financial; time, experience and encouragement can also make a lasting difference. Having benefited from the guidance of lecturers, mentors and healthcare professionals, she hopes to follow in her mother's footsteps one day by supporting nursing students in their own journeys. She is grateful to her mother for instilling in her the values of hard work, kindness and giving back.

Although Karen and Angel's experiences at Sunway were different, their shared alma mater has connected their journeys in a meaningful way. For Karen, watching Angel graduate was a moment of pride and nostalgia, allowing her to introduce her daughter to the alumni community she had come to know. In this way, Sunway remains an enduring part of their family story across two generations.

*Community Scholars are Malaysian youth aged 18 to 25 from underprivileged backgrounds, including those from residential care homes, community centres, pr low-income families, pursuing their education on full scholarships at Sunway institutions.*

# Charting Malaysia's Path Forward



It is a privilege to contribute to the Leader's Log and to address the Sunwayian community, a generation of aspiring leaders who will play an important role in shaping the industries and communities that drive Malaysia's future.

I have had the honour of leading Tourism Malaysia through one of its most significant chapters: the preparation and implementation of Visit Malaysia 2026-2027 (VM2026-2027). Over 25 years with Tourism Malaysia, I have served across key functions spanning research, state-level operations, international and domestic promotion, digital communications, and our overseas office in Seoul, South Korea. Throughout this journey, one principle has remained constant: tourism is more than an economic sector; it is an instrument of national diplomacy, cultural exchange, and people-to-people connection. Every visitor who leaves Malaysia with a positive experience and a meaningful story becomes an ambassador for our country long after their journey has ended.

VM2026–2027 continues to put this belief into practice as Malaysia works towards its target of 47 million international visitor arrivals this year. A campaign of this scale requires coordinated efforts, from state-level activations and community engagement to international promotions and market development. Through major international platforms such as ITB Berlin and Arabian Travel Market (ATM) Dubai, alongside sales missions, business engagements and familiarisation trips, Tourism Malaysia continues to strengthen Malaysia's global presence and pursue high-value tourism opportunities. At the same time, initiatives such as Citrawarna's return to Dataran Merdeka after six years, bringing together more than 3,500 dancers and performers over three days, demonstrate how domestic and international efforts come together to strengthen Malaysia's overall tourism proposition.

Equally important is the strength of public-private collaboration. Tourism Malaysia works closely with government agencies, state tourism authorities and industry partners to strengthen connectivity, enhance visitor experiences and expand our international reach. Partnerships with major airlines, including Malaysia Airlines, AirAsia, Batik Air and Emirates, and travel platforms such as Agoda, Traveloka, Trip.com and Tripadvisor help connect international visitors with Malaysian destinations and experiences. Collaborations with Grab, Visa, Mastercard and Alipay further support targeted promotions and contribute to a more seamless visitor experience. Our recent collaboration with Sunway University for International Sun Bear Day in May is one example of how such partnerships can create broader impact. With the Malayan sun bear as the VM2026–2027 campaign mascot, the collaboration brought together tourism, education and wildlife conservation awareness, while promoting sustainable tourism and reaching audiences beyond conventional tourism channels.

For students considering a future in tourism, hospitality, or public service, there is immense opportunity to make a meaningful difference. The industry requires individuals who can combine analytical thinking with an understanding of people, communities and experiences. As future leaders, Sunwayians will have an important role in determining how Malaysia's tourism industry evolves over the coming decades, from how we develop destinations and embrace technology, to how we preserve our heritage and advance sustainable tourism.

As VM2026-2027 continues to unfold, we remain committed to ensuring that Malaysia's authentic stories are shared with greater reach, told with sincerity, and remembered long after each visitor's journey has ended. To all Sunwayians, I encourage you to become ambassadors of Malaysia in your own way, whether as travellers, hosts, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, or future leaders. Together, we can ensure that Malaysia's warmth, culture, diversity, and hospitality continue to inspire the world.

**Mohd Amirul Rizal bin Abdul Rahim**
Director General, Tourism Malaysia

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*Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sir Jeffrey Cheah KBE AO, flanked by Victoria University Chancellor Steve Bracks and Vice-Chancellor Adam Shoemaker*

# Leadership, Values and the Pursuit of Higher Purpose:

**Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah Awarded Global Impact in Education by Victoria University**

Sunway College and Victoria University have built a longstanding transnational partnership spanning more than three decades. The collaboration has opened doors for thousands of students to access international education and pursue diverse career pathways.

During the Victoria University's October 2026 graduation ceremony at Melbourne's Flemington Racecourse, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sir Jeffrey Cheah KBE AO, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group, addressed graduates on the theme of "Leadership, Values and the Pursuit of Higher Purpose," drawing on his own experiences which led to his lifelong commitment to education and giving back.

"I have always maintained that each and every one of us must have a higher purpose in life. For me, that higher calling is to help others build better lives, and a commitment to making a far-reaching impact on society.

"I chose education as the avenue to pursue that mission. The choice of education was based on my formative experience growing up in Pusing, where I witnessed first-hand how poverty shut down opportunities for many of my childhood friends," he shared.

Marking a milestone in Victoria University's history, the anniversary gala at Melbourne Town Hall saw Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah honoured with the Victoria University 110th Anniversary Award for Global Impact in Education for his transformative contributions to education, business and society.

Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah is a proud alumnus of Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, having pursued his accounting and business studies at its predecessor institution, the Footscray Institute of Technology.

His connection with the university has continued over the decades. In 1993, he became the first person in the university's history to receive an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa), followed by the Distinguished Alumni Award and Centenary Hoadley Medal in 2016.

"I am deeply honoured, especially to receive this recognition from my own alma mater. Education changed the course of my life, and I have devoted much of my life to ensuring that more young people have the same opportunity. To me, this award is also a recognition of what we can achieve when we make education accessible to all, regardless of their background. Education can indeed do so much good for humanity," he said.

Today, Victoria University @ Sunway stands as Victoria University's longest-standing transnational education partnership, spanning 32 years and supporting more than 10,000 graduates in Malaysia as they pursue careers across a wide range of industries.

With its innovative VU Block Model®, global experience opportunities and international education experience closer to home, the partnership continues to empower students to broaden horizons and build futures.

This recognition heralds another chapter in a partnership guided by a shared vision of education and opportunity as Sunway College and Victoria University look towards the years ahead.

# The Green Habits I Never Knew Had A Name

By Shasenem Mammetyarova, BA (Hons) in Communication





I grew up believing that turning off the lights, saving water, and never wasting food were common sense — these were just part of everyday life. It was only after moving from Turkmenistan to Malaysia that I began to see those small routines had a much bigger meaning.

Like many international students, I came to Malaysia expecting to learn about a new culture, make new friends, and experience university life abroad. What I did not expect was that living in another country would help me appreciate the values I had grown up with.

One of the first things that showed me this was Sunway University's strong focus on sustainability. More students carried reusable bottles instead of buying bottled water or using disposable cups. Campaigns promoting reusable products became part of everyday campus life, encouraging students to think more carefully about the waste they produce.



All these reminded me of home. In my family, wasting food was never an option. Whenever we cooked, we would invite our neighbours or friends over to share the meal. If any food was left, we fed the stray cats around our neighbourhood. We also save water whenever possible, switch off lights before leaving a room, and dry our clothes naturally instead of using a dryer.

Only later did I realise these small habits were also acts of sustainability, a pattern often shaped by culture and passed down informally, rather than through formal environmental education.

After learning more about plastic pollution and climate change, I became even more interested in sustainability. I remember watching videos that explained how plastic waste affects our oceans and ecosystems.

Every year, 19 to 23 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into rivers, lakes, and seas (UNEP, 2024). They made me think about how even the smallest daily choices could have long-term consequences.

Inspired by what I have learned, I encouraged my family to separate plastic waste from other household waste. Although recycling facilities are still limited in many parts of Turkmenistan, my family continues this habit because we believe every small effort counts.

Whenever I return home, I notice that more people around us are paying attention to plastic waste than before. Whether it is separating recyclables or simply thinking twice before throwing something away, these small changes give me hope that attitudes are slowly improving.

These changes back home, paired with my time in Malaysia, changed the way I see my own culture.

Before coming here, I thought sustainability was only relevant to global environmental organisations. But, in reality, many sustainable habits have been part of my life since childhood. I simply never recognised them as such.

Today, sustainability means something very personal to me. It is not about trying to be perfect or changing the world overnight, but it is about respecting the resources we have, avoiding unnecessary waste, and understanding that small actions matter.

People often believe that creating change requires doing something extraordinary. My experience has taught me the opposite. Sometimes the biggest lessons begin with the smallest habits, and sometimes we only recognise their value after leaving home.








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# Seeds of Connection





As Malaysia marked its 69th Independence Day with lively celebrations nationwide and in the midst of gearing up for Malaysia Day just around the corner, students from Sunway International Schools (SIS) welcomed residents of Sunway Sanctuary, a senior living residence, to its Kuala Lumpur campus for an afternoon of laughter, bonding and meaningful intergenerational connection.

Beyond national pride, the spirit of Merdeka lies in the bonds that bring people together. This heartwarming initiative reinforced a sense of community and belonging while leveraging the strength of the wider Sunway ecosystem.

Principal of SIS, Mr Richard Cherry, shared, "With the rapid advancements taking place around us, it is crucial that we equip our students with more than just knowledge. Equally important are the morals, values and human connections that help shape them into compassionate and responsible individuals."

"Being part of a vibrant and integrated community such as Sunway gives us the opportunity to create meaningful connections beyond the classroom. We look forward to playing a role in supporting and enhancing community engagement, while providing our students with valuable learning experiences that extend beyond academic achievement," he continued.

Paired with SIS students, Sunway Sanctuary residents participated in a series of engaging activities designed to encourage meaningful interaction while supporting the motor and cognitive development of all participants.

The session concluded with heartfelt conversations between the two generations, as the seniors shared their life experiences and words of wisdom with the students before walking away with unexpected new friendships.

Uniting generations under one roof proved that connection, compassion and community remain values that transcend age, while reflecting the Malaysia we continue to build — one where generations come together, learn from one another and find strength in their shared sense of belonging.





















# GUARDIANS OF THE COAST

By: Ms. Waheeda Darus,
Sunway International Schools Arts Teacher

Setting off on an exciting 3-day, 2-night expedition, 20 eager Ontario high school students headed to Club Med Cherating, Pahang for an unforgettable Eco Journey to foster environmental awareness, art sustainability, teamwork, and active conservation. Led by Ms. Waheeda and assisted by Ms. Subatra along with guidance from local experts and resort G.Os, the students explored coastal ecosystems during a serene morning mangrove cruise.

Amid the quiet river atmosphere, they could hear the soft lap of the water, gentle breeze through the roots, and rhythmic calls of colourful kingfishers, swiftlets, and forest birds flitting through the canopy. Along the way, the group spotted wild snakes, otters, fruit bats, and mudskippers in their natural habitat while learning why mangroves are so vital: acting as crucial natural barriers against shoreline erosion, rich carbon sinks, and irreplaceable nurseries for marine life.

The adventure continued as students rolled up their sleeves for an impactful coastal beach clean-up to protect the local shoreline. Creative and team-building moments flourished through hands-on art sustainability projects, including Botanical Sustainability Mixed-media art – where teams used watercolour bases and gathered dried leaves and seashells to craft vibrant landscape scenery, a traditional Batik Masterclass using eco-friendly techniques led by local batik artist Ayam and his wife, an energetic Resort Scavenger Hunt where teams raced to photograph a list of 15 flora and fauna, and traditional architectural features around the resort to construct winning photo grids, as well as beach activities and archery.

Ultimately, the journey left a lasting impression on everyone, equipping our students with newfound skills, stronger friendships, and an enduring dedication to protecting Malaysia's natural environment, standing as a true testament to our commitment to nurturing empowered, eco-conscious global leaders for the future.







# Digitally Fluent Isn't the Same as Digitally Wise



My parents have a habit many families will recognise: when news reaches their phones, they pass it on. Even when I was a news reporter, the forwards kept coming. I never saw it as carelessness. For the older generation, sharing a warning is a way of protecting the family: a small act of care, delivered at speed.

But caring is not the same as checking. Younger people who grew up with smartphones do it too. Being good with the tool offers surprisingly little protection against the habits of the mind.

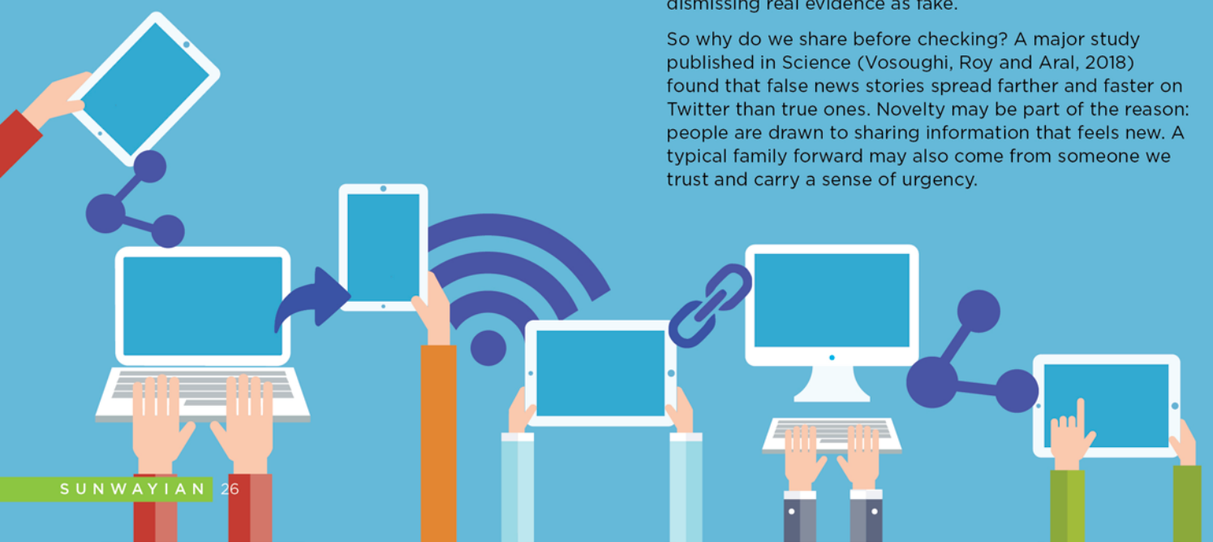
With a few taps, we can find answers, watch videos, read news reports or ask artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explain almost anything. But access is not judgement. In 1971, economist Herbert Simon warned that a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention. Today, the scarce resource is not information. It is the ability to weigh it.

Growing up online does not build that ability automatically. In 2016, Stanford University researchers found that more than 80% of middle schoolers in their study could not distinguish sponsored content from real news story. Being comfortable on a platform and being critical of it are two different skills.

Digital fluency means knowing how to use digital platforms and tools. Media literacy goes further: understanding what we are looking at, who created it, why it was created and whether it deserves our trust. A fluent user can edit a video in minutes. A media-literate user also asks what the edit leaves out and who benefits from the version presented.

The distinction matters more as AI tools generate realistic text, images, audio and video in seconds. We may believe what is false, but we may also start doubting what is true. Legal scholars Robert Chesney and Danielle Citron (2019) call this the "liar's dividend": the advantage gained by dismissing real evidence as fake.

So why do we share before checking? A major study published in Science (Vosoughi, Roy and Aral, 2018) found that false news stories spread farther and faster on Twitter than true ones. Novelty may be part of the reason: people are drawn to sharing information that feels new. A typical family forward may also come from someone we trust and carry a sense of urgency.









**Nurzalina Ramli**
Head of Programme in the Diploma in Communication, Sunway Diploma Studies, Sunway College



**Mieza Shafieza Mohd Fuad**
Lecturer, Sunway Diploma Studies, Sunway College

The answer is not to distrust everything online. Blanket suspicion is as unhelpful as blanket trust. Instead, we can pause and consider five things before accepting or sharing information: context, source, intent, evidence and impact.

What is the bigger picture? Who published it? What might they be trying to achieve? What supports the claims? What could happen if we share without checking? These questions take seconds but can change how we engage with information.

Professional fact-checkers offer another useful lesson. In a 2019 Stanford study, researchers Sam Wineburg and Sarah McGrew found that fact-checkers were better at evaluating online information than historians and university students. Rather than staying on a suspicious page, they opened new tabs to investigate its source and compare other accounts. We can adopt the same habit by verifying the sources.

Media literacy is not only about consuming information carefully. Anyone can publish a video, write a post or use AI to create content and reach an audience almost instantly. We are all publishers now, and that brings responsibility. Journalism's fundamental discipline lies in verification, which means checking a second source, confirming the date and asking what is missing.

Communication education therefore has a role on both sides of the screen. Students need to assess the information they encounter while understanding their responsibilities as creators. Accuracy, context, credibility and ethical communication matter whenever we communicate online.

In the Department of Communication at Sunway Diploma Studies, students practise checking viral claims, comparing news reports and acknowledging sources, including AI assistance.

For parents and educators, media literacy can begin with asking a child where a video came from or why someone might have posted it. It works in reverse too. Correcting a parent's forward can feel like dismissing the care behind it. Asking, "Shall we check where this came from together?" respects the intention while encouraging better habits.

In Malaysia, Sebenarnya.my, run by the Communications Ministry and MCMC, offers fact checks, while its AI chatbot, AIFA, helps verify claims. Both are best used alongside other sources.

Digital fluency tells us what we can do with our devices; digital wisdom tells us what we should do. The first can be picked up quickly. The second is built over a lifetime, and it begins with a pause.


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