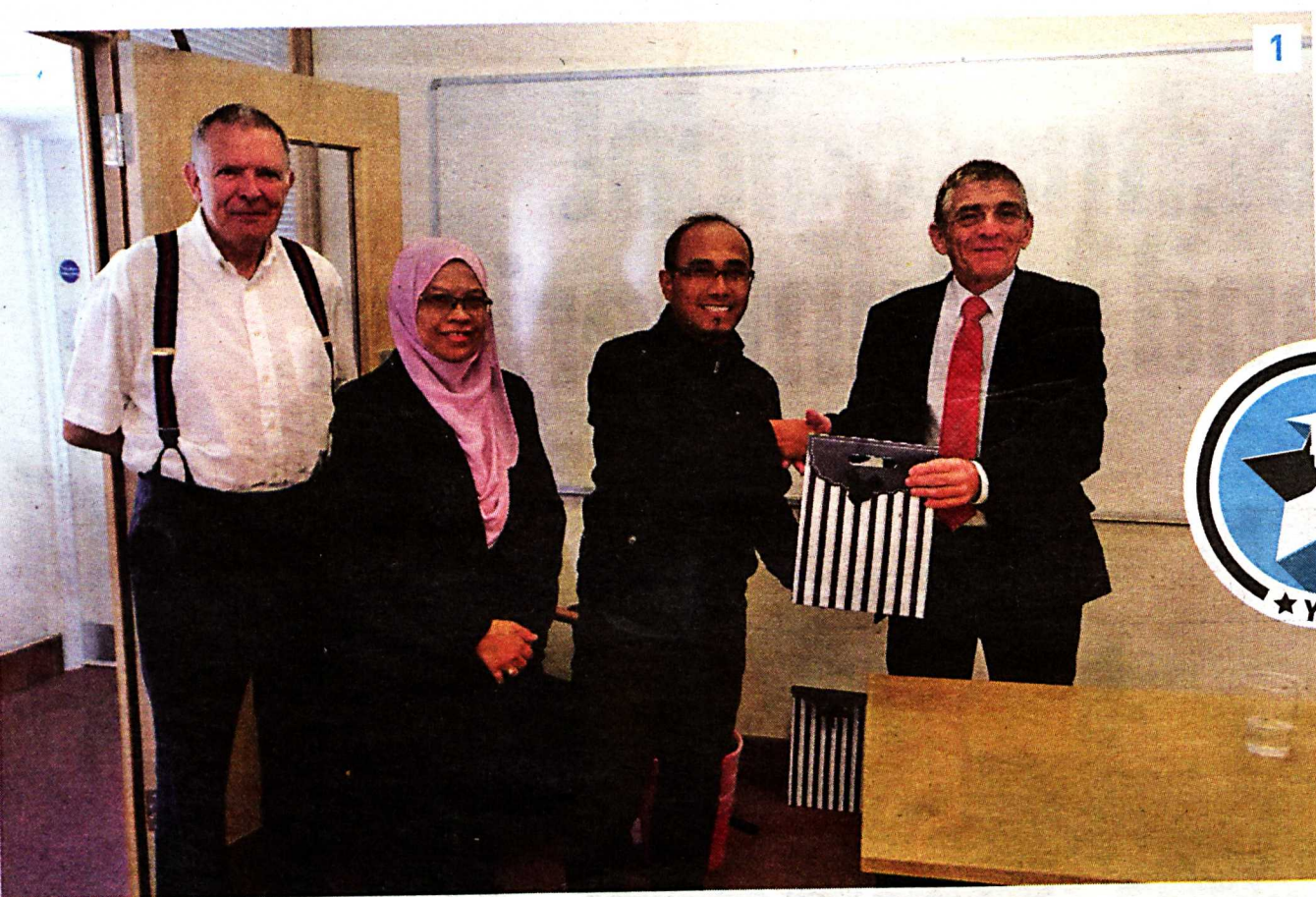


AKHBAR INI
DIBENARKAN DIBAWA KE
DARI BAHAGIAN INI

UPM students learn about land resource in Europe

1. (From left) William Seabrooke, Radziah Othman, master's student Mohd Firdaus Mat Dah and Cambridge lecturer Professor Dr Peter Tyler exchanging gifts. 2. Appreciating the landscape at Cambridge University. 3. Viewing a new building built on reclaimed land at King Cross Station, London. 4. LARM students posing for a picture with their host during a walkabout at Cambridge University. 5. CILI partner Professor Dr Robert Couchman showing students agriculture land at Ongar in Essex, England.

WHAT can you learn about soil sustainability from Europe? Apparently plenty, as 25 Master of Land Resource Management (LARM) students from the Agriculture Faculty of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) discovered at a technical course on Land Resource Management and Urban Development in Europe.

Held around the cities of London and Amsterdam, the group along with UPM's Department of Land Management senior lecturer Dr Daljit Singh Karam as well as department head Associate Professor Dr Radziah Othman visited redeveloped sites, parks, urban farms and smart townships.

"They also went through case studies such as looking at the development of suburban areas. The course included studying the approaches used in managing rapid development pressure, land use planning and policies for development and agriculture in Europe," said Radziah.

"Social management is also taken into account in urban development planning to ensure the main functions include all aspects such as careers, health, welfare and local economy opportunities.

"Vast forested areas — some of them were potential agricultural lands — had been developed into housing and industrial zones. It is undeniable that such development is deemed necessary to create business, investment and job opportunities for both local and international communities," she added.

AKHBAR INI TIDAK
DIBENARKAN DIBAWA KELUAR
DARI BAHAGIAN INI

Professor Dr William Seabrooke, who is Cambridge International Land Institute (CILI) technical course coordinator at the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, said the programme aimed to expose students to the methods of development, reclamation and urban and suburban land care and maintenance as practised in Europe.

"Exchange of ideas is crucial in creating an urban environment that will allow communities to carry out their daily lives more comfortably. Moreover, students will also be able to make a comparison between the approaches practised in Malaysia and Europe," he said.

Developed collaboratively by CILI and UPM's Faculty of Agriculture, the course — which is compulsory for all LARM students — ran from Aug 13 to 20.

Student Wan Abdul Hadi Wan Mohd Shafie said that, through the course, he had gained considerable knowledge in land development that can be adapted to Malaysia.

"One of the more interesting approaches is the rehabilitation of old and dilapidated buildings into liveable homes. This approach can reduce the cost of constructing new structures while conserving land use and maintaining land sustainability," he said.

He added that in spite of a densely populated population, cities such as London and Amsterdam are able to ensure issues such as traffic congestion and the availability of low cost housing for the poor are addressed.