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**KICT NEWSLETTER** 

# SPECTRUM

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Message from the Editor

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 9th issue of KICT Spectrum. This newsletter serves as a reflection of our collective journey celebrating achievements, sharing knowledge, and strengthening the spirit of our community.

In this edition, we showcase the outstanding contributions of our staff and students, including staff mobility, community engagement activities, postgraduate achievements, impactful workshops, research publications, and insightful talks and seminars. These accomplishments not only highlight individual excellence but also reinforce KICT's position as a hub of knowledge and innovation.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to remain steadfast in upholding academic excellence, advancing research, and fostering meaningful collaboration. Your dedication whether through teaching, research, or service to the community is what enables KICT to continue thriving.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all contributors and the editorial team for their commitment in bringing this newsletter to life. May it serve as a source of inspiration and connection for us all.

Best regards, Hazwani Chief Editor

# **'BENGKEL HALA TUJU RAKAN NADMA - AKADEMIA'**

# STRENGTHENING RESEARCH NETWORKS AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



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Putrajaya - 9 October 2025. The 'Bengkel Hala Tuju Rakan NADMA-Akademia' (Rakan NADMA - Akademia Strategic Direction Workshop) was held at the Everly Hotel, Putrajaya. The workshop was officiated by Tuan Haji Hussain Moh, Deputy Director (Post-Disaster), National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). The event brought together 50

participants, representing 13 higher learning institutions and six NGO partners, marking an important milestone in advancing collaborative disaster risk management efforts between academia and NGOs.

## A PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INNOVATION

The workshop aimed to refine the strategic direction of the *Rakan NADMA-Akademia* initiative, envisioned as a formal collaborative platform linking NADMA, universities, and NGOs. The discussion focused on identifying research and innovation areas related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) that could be translated into evidence-based policies and actionable strategies.

Another key objective was to establish an academic support network to strengthen the capacity of NGO partners in disaster risk management. The session also served as a space for participants to consolidate an initial repository of research projects related to DRR and DRM from participating universities, forming a foundation for future knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

### PARTICIPATION FROM KEY NGOS' INVOLVED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The workshop featured strong participation from NADMA's NGO partners, including:

- Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) a dedicated non-profit organization, focusing on disaster response by providing humanitarian aid and relief to those in need. MRA is represented by Dr. Shahrizal Azwan Shamsudin.
- Malaysian Red Crescent Society (PBSM), a voluntary humanitarian organization that provide service (first-aid) and public education in disaster management. PBSM is represented by Datuk Dr. Hj. Mohamed Alwi Bin Abdul Rahman.
- BeVital Physiotherapy Centre, represented by Dr. Rashidi, shared valuable insights from their disaster response experience and urged academia to engage in community-centred research.
- Malaysian Amateur Radio Emergency Service Society (MARES), an amateur radio enthusiasts club, focused on providing radio communication assistance during emergency and disaster.
- MERCY Malaysia, a non-for-profit organization that focuses on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development, risk reduction activities and building resilient communities for vulnerable communities in crisis and non-crisis situations.



Among NGO's participated in the workshop includes Mercy Malaysia, Malaysian Relief Agency, Malaysian Red Crescent (PBSM), BeVital, and MARES.

#### PROPOSED INITIATIVES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

During roundtable discussion between universities and NGOs, among the ideas discussed were several capacity-building and knowledge-exchange initiatives, including:

- Joint training with PBSM by integrating disaster awareness education from school level and conducting risk assessments for chemical and biological hazards (CBRA)
- Co-organizing volunteer preparedness programmes focusing on hygiene and environmental safety in disaster zones.
- Educational visits to international disaster learning sites such as the Aceh Tsunami Museum in Indonesia and the Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum, Japan.

### RESEARCH FOCUS: LOW-COST, HIGH-IMPACT, AND RAPID SOLUTIONS

The primary focus highlighted throughout the workshop was the importance of producing R&D outputs that are cost-effective, high-impact, and rapidly deployable in real disaster situations. Participants emphasized the need for research that not only generates academic publications but also directly benefits affected communities.

In terms of future R&D opportunities, workshop participants identified the potential for research on sustainable, nutritious, and long-lasting food products that remain edible during disaster situation, linking innovation in food technology and Halal food production.

Discussions also addressed the importance of communication and power resilience, with MARES offering technical support through alternative radio-based communication systems during power or network outages.

A notable research direction proposed was the use of digital technologies for large-scale evacuation management and shelter coordination (Pusat Pemindahan Sementara - PPS). Potential applications include:

- Mapping and categorizing evacuation centres based on ageappropriate facilities (primary schools for children, secondary schools for adults).
- Updating PPS data every five years to maintain accuracy and relevance.
- Integrating environmental mapping to identify natural food sources around evacuation zones for improved local resilience.

### A STEP TOWARDS NATIONAL RESILIENCE

The workshop provided valuable insights from both the academic and NGOs perspectives, particularly regarding impact assessment, community capacity building, and policy translation of research findings. The workshop represents an important step forward in reinforcing synergy between academia and NGO, strengthening Malaysia's disaster risk management ecosystem through evidence-based, collaborative, and community-impactful approaches.





