

Dubai Expo 2020 showcases potential of a sustainable world post-Covid-19 pandemic



By [Dzulkifli Abdul Razak](#) - March 31, 2022 @ 7:12pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob visiting the Dubai Expo. -BERNAMA file pic

THE Dubai Expo 2020 comes to a close at the end of March. Following a difficult start due to the pandemic in 2020, it took off late last year.

After barely a year, it is sad to see it go since it is hugely popular judging from the diversity of nationalities making their way to see the world from up close at the Expo.

Just step into any of the hundreds of pavilions spread throughout the Expo ground and one is bound to learn and discover something new. Especially from places that are less accessible because of travel logistics.

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"Terra" is the Sustainability Pavilion with the Mangrove and Sidr Avenue alongside displaying a truly diverse global view of sustainability. It offers an optimistic celebration of a future that humans can actually achieve together.

The District houses the venue where an educational roundtable entitled: 'Reimagining Education - Science and Evidence for Education', sponsored by Unesco Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

Among the main purposes was to re-envision education for the future and to repurpose it for the needs of the 21st century post-pandemic.

In many ways, it resonates with the International Islamic University Malaysia's (IIUM) goal of "humanising education".

It realigns the sub-goals of transdisciplinary education, one that is community engaged, based on sustainable entrepreneurship as well responsible research and innovation through the framework of collaboration and co-existence.

Overall, any assessment needs to play a "new" role in looking into humans flourishing, education and learning; education, learning and context; learning experience; and the use of data and evidence.

It contributes to the Blueprint for a New Social Contract for Education. A number of key messages have been purposed to enable a new learning to take place in the entire education ecosystem.

These messages are well mirrored in the Expo through two other locations or districts, namely the Mobility and Opportunity Districts.

The Mobility District emphasises on connecting the dots to drive the world forward, "building a society where information, ideas and goods are exchanged faster than before".

Whereas the Opportunity District is about "transforming today's aspirations into realities of tomorrow and be inspired to shape the future by unlocking one's own potential".

All in all, the Dubai Expo 2020 has brilliantly articulated the potential of a sustainable world beyond the context of SDGs into the post-Covid-19 era. A reminder not to be forgotten.

The writer, an NST columnist for more than 20 years, is International Islamic University Malaysia rector



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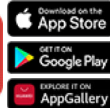
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