



Practical Example :

MALAYSIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION MALAYSIA

Anti-Corruption Student Force

By establishing the Anti-Corruption Student Force (Angkatan Mahasiswa Anti Rasuah or AMAR in Malay Language), the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has created an alliance between the educational system and youth activism. Working with and through educational institutions, AMAR has recruited young people to spearhead anti-corruption movements within their respective universities. AMAR has fostered the formation of anti-corruption groups, which undertake activities ranging from campaigns to policy advocacy within and beyond their campuses. These youth-led groups design projects that raise awareness of corruption's harms and how to counter it. The projects are run under the close supervision of school directors and MACC. During the project, which lasts one year for each student, the MACC provides extensive capacity-building programmes integrated into the institution's educational framework. Upon project completion, reviews and evaluations by MACC Officers will be given whether such project achieved the objectives. Indeed this process will nurture the existing members to become alumni mentors for future generations of AMAR members.



Background

The AMAR was originally known as the Anti-Corruption Secretariat (ACS) or in Malay Language Sekretariat Pencegahan Rasuah (SPR) had established in 2007 following alarming findings from a 2002 Public Perception of Corruption Study which showed a pervasive willingness of a significant proportion of students to give and take bribes. The government and the Ministry of Higher Education agreed to establish and subsidize ACSs in 20 public universities in Malaysia. In 2013, the ACS was further expanded. In 2018, it was rebranded as AMAR to provide a uniform image and identity throughout the country. Since its inception, more than 100 universities and thousands of students have participated in building their respective AMAR movements. This includes 56 Institutes of Teacher Education, 20 public universities, and 14 private universities in Malaysia. The AMAR vision is to “create a younger generation that hates corruption in an effort to make Malaysia a corruption-free country” and its mission is “to spearhead efforts to inculcate good values, prevent corruption and abuse of power among IPT students.”

How the young people contribute

- Young people have strongly supported the public policy change on anti-corruption and national anti-corruption strategy through the AMAR Policy Advocacy movement
- As a result of AMAR advocacy work, anti-corruption lessons have become compulsory modules in all educational institutions throughout Malaysia, ensuring that every graduate is equipped with a comprehensive understanding of combating corruption.
- Young people have produced awareness, action, and advocacy work that increase public awareness on anti-corruption

AMAR, Malaysia and the meaningful youth engagement themes

Diversity and inclusion:

- AMAR embraces diversity by including universities of various types, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity.

Enabling environment:

- AMAR incorporates young people's recommendations into government policies, allowing them to develop their own projects independently.

Intergenerational collaboration:

- AMAR fosters collaboration between generations through a mentoring programme involving alumni and current members.

Quality youth participation:

- AMAR selects young leaders to drive projects, maintaining direct connections with the Anti-Corruption Agency for reporting and policy recommendations.

Youth empowerment:

- AMAR empowers young individuals through volunteering and mentoring opportunities, fostering their development and contribution. The burgeoning activism of the young participants in AMAR lays the ground for youth empowerment.

Lessons Learned

The AMAR project can share valuable lessons on anti-corruption. Firstly, it highlights the effectiveness of young people as change-makers, emphasizing the need to utilize diverse tools and elements to amplify their concerns. By empowering young individuals to lead the anti-corruption movements, AMAR recognizes their unique perspectives and insights, as evident in the policy recommendations they have put forth. These recommendations, now successfully implemented as mandatory modules on anti-corruption across universities, reflect the genuine aspirations of young people. Additionally, the project recognizes the importance of establishing a data center to ensure the sustainability of the movement. This center serves as a repository of information, enabling a smooth transition of leadership and continuity within university-level anti-corruption initiatives, even as youth leaders change over time.



AMAR Convention in 2022

For more information:

- ➔ AMAR landing page – in Bahasa Melayu:
https://www.sprm.gov.my/index.php?page_id=134&articleid=693&language=my
- ➔ AMAR book- in Bahasa Melayu:
<https://www.sprm.gov.my/admin/files/sprm/assets/pdf/pendidikan/Buku-Panduan-AMAR.pdf>