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**SEMESTER I SESSION 2020/2021**

**UKQE3001-02  
EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (EXCEL)**

**ASSIGNMENT 1:  
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REFLECTION REPORT 2**

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## REFLECTION

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Department of Computer Science organised an event, namely SCSR Family Day SCSR x SECR at the School of Computing and Balai Cerap, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. This event involved nearly 200 undergraduate students, lecturers and supporting staffs from the Department of Computer Science. SCSR Family Day was an annual tradition of the Department of Network and Security (SCSR) to hold a BBQ dinner to celebrate the return of Year 4 students from their industrial trainings and to welcome the arrival of Year 1 students. The purpose of this event is to create and strengthen the bond between students, lecturers and supporting staffs as well as cultivate team spirit and build collaborative relationship between all participants. This year, SCSR x SECR Family Day included 2 main activities, which are Spring Cleaning during day time and BBQ dinner during night time.

Few weeks earlier, a task force with representatives from each year was formed to help organising the event. I had played my role as part of the Spring Cleaning crew, aiming to clean up and beautify the area around Level 3, N28 building of the School of Computing. The spring cleaning activity was pull off by students and led by Mohd Zulhamdi bin Malek (4SCSR) with minimal supervision from the lecturers. Hence, we discussed and communicated well before starting the cleaning activities to make sure that covered all areas and all tasks were distributed evenly among all crews according to each other's capability. The major areas that required cleaning up included the corridors, all tables, chairs and benches, the SCSR student lounge, lawn area, ceilings and fans, lecturers' rooms, washrooms and the drains. Besides, some of the crews also did a mural painting on the wall for decoration purposes. There was a leader assigned for each area to take care of the crews and make sure that all works were done smoothly.

We kicked started the spring cleaning activity by the distribution of tasks and cleaning tools. My partner, Toon Shu Hui and I were assigned the task to clean up one of our lecturers, Ms Marina's room. We divided the duties systematically among us and got to work. We first clean up all rubbish in the room and put them in a huge garbage bag. Then, we wiped off the dust on the tables, chairs and racks with some dampened clothes. We also used a streak-free glass cleaner to remove the dirt and fingerprints on the window. Lastly, we hit the floors in the whole room and upholstered furniture using a vacuum machine. The whole cleaning process took us about one and a half hour. Then, I took a 30 minutes break and had my late lunch prepared by the food preparation crews. I had a mouth-watering fried rice with refreshing soft-beverage to quench my thirst. After that, I continued my work by helping the other team to sweep and clean the grounds along the corridors. We finished all the cleaning works by half past five in the evening. By that time, most of us were worn out.

At first, I could observe that the atmosphere between the seniors and juniors was awkward because most of us were not familiar to each other. Some of us did not even meet each other before even though we were studying in the same school. However, the activity turned out to be relatively problem free. Surprisingly, although not knowing each other well, everyone was trying to be as helpful as possible. We were not only taking care of our own assigned tasks but we worked hard to help others with heavier work load. The atmosphere became lively and everyone had engaged in chit-chatting while working. I believed that working and interacting with each other in common task had given us the opportunity to grow the desire and acquire the skills to practice cooperation with others. I felt appreciative that this activity had improved my interest and abilities in team collaboration and brought all of us closer together.

Besides, I also observed that many of us managed to break the ice by telling jokes and finding mutual topics or interests among us. The activity had presented an excellent chance for

us to get close with each other by practising cooperation. I felt heart-warming to see everyone had been so kind and helpful to one another. This is of particular importance and meaningful to me or perhaps all of us because most of us would went home or hostel right after the last bell rang. We would not have much chances to interact with the seniors, juniors and peers from other sections. Doing spring cleaning together as a group activity requires us to communicate, help and coordinate with one another. As a result, it helps all of us to develop skills in working with the community and better prepare us for life beyond the university. I felt that the essential values of collaboration in this activity was far-reaching and significant.

This activity had reminded me of my previous spring cleaning experiences during my days in high school. The overall experiences of all these spring cleaning activities are quite similar, where everyone worked hard together to clean up and beautify common areas and improve the look and the feel of the areas. However, what makes this experience the most special one is that the planning and execution of this activity were almost fully done by students ourselves with the minimum supervision from our lecturers. Unlike this activity, my past experiences of doing spring cleaning in high school were mostly instructed and guided by the teachers. From the planning of the activity, the preparation of materials to the assignment of tasks, most of them were conducted by the teachers. As a student, I had to follow the given instructions and did not have much chances to give my own thoughts and opinions. At that time, I only had to focus on my assigned task and had less things to consider and worry about. I think the main purpose of the activities during high school was to foster the sense of responsibilities in students' mind so that we become well-trusted in the future. Hence, the activities focused on guiding our ethics and behaviours by requiring us to complete the instructed tasks.

On the contrary, this activity served me an opportunity to learn other important values such as dedication, leadership, respect, effective communication. This activity helped me to

develop values that cannot be learned in doing homework or assignments. The school administrator did not make this spring cleaning activity as a mandatory school activity and the decision to join the activity was fully at my discretion. Indeed, no one “forced” me to do anything in the whole progress of this activity but my dedication to this activity leads me to appear accountable and dependable. Unlike the activities I did in high school where it seemed like my obligation to participate and follow instructions, I completed work tasks with self-discipline instead of requiring others to intervene.

Upon joining this activity, I realised that it had served a great impact on myself, the school community and the school environment. For me, the most significant aspect of this activity is not only about nurturing the important values that I have mentioned earlier, it also help me to develop a sense of appreciation for others’ works. I feel gratified when people offered me help during the cleaning process. Through the cleaning tasks that I have done such as sweeping and vacuuming the floors, mopping tables and chairs, dusting windows and cleaning up the rubbish, I understand and become more aware of the amount of labour required to keep the school area clean. Accordingly, as a student, I appreciate the regular janitorial services provided by our school management; as a child, I am grateful to the effort my parents have made to tidy up my homes; as part of the neighbourhood, I am gratified to the work my neighbours have done to clean up the community. I become more respectful because I appreciate the works others have done for me and it consequently contributes to love, happiness, peaceful and harmony. It stands a reason to support that being respectful to others can earn the respect.

In a nut shell, I realise that I have learn and achieve far more than what I expect from joining this activity. I admit that I was originally being hesitant to join this activity as I was bogged down with heavy academic load during that time. Thinking back of what I have gained, it would be a huge regret if I did not join this activity because it has definitely exceed the

benefits of what I would otherwise be doing. The impact of this activity is not temporary but it is far-reaching and crucial for my future. Instead of unknowingly dawdle away hours of my after-lecture time, I decide to join more volunteering activities or community service projects if I happen to come across such chances in the future. I believe that the latter choice is not a waste of time but a valuable and effective use of my time.

## APPENDICES

