Book Roundtable

“The Sustainable University of the Future: Re-Imagining Higher Education and Research”

by

Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

The analysis of the current state of HE and Research could be summarised by the acronym WEIRD - namely Westernised-oriented, Economic-centric, Industry-led, Reputation-obsessed, and Dehumanising. In many ways it goes against the grain of SDGs, made real by the coronavirus pandemic. The latter is regarded by most as a full-dressed rehearsal of the failure in meeting the 17 SDGs targets of the 5Ps. In other words, a new "normal" the shapes university of the future is much needed to save the day and beyond. Especially in mitigating the negative phenomena brought about the entire Industrial Revolution since the 18th century until today. It calls not just for a transformative education that embraces the SDGs worldview and perspectives, but also to boldly "reimagining" a more fair and balanced holistic approach in humanising education. This can be summed in another acronym - WISER, which will be elaborated during the panel discussion.