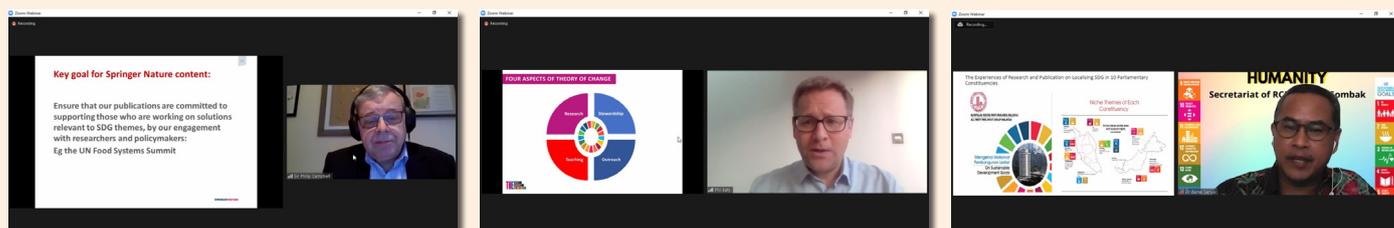


# SPRINGER NATURE VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Springer Nature, in collaboration with Times Higher Education, held a virtual roundtable webinar on “The SDGs in Southeast Asia and their impact on Research” in Malaysia. Two SDG roundtables in similar format were also organized in Indonesia and Thailand in the same week.

The webinar featured talks from Philip Campbell, Springer Nature’s Editor-in-Chief, Phil Baty, Chief Knowledge Officer of THE, and Dr. Zainal Abidin Sanusi, Director of the Sejahtera Centre for Sustainability and Humanity at International Islamic University Malaysia. They joined the panel discussion with Dr. Shakuntala Thilsted, Research Program Leader for Value Chains and Nutrition at WorldFish; and Mr. Niloy Banerjee, UN Development Programs. The webinar attracted more than 120 audiences.

The webinar featured talks by Phil Campbell and Tony Bocquet, Vice President, Sales of Japan. Southeast Asia & Oceania, on the impact that publishers can have on how SDG research is communicated, and by Phil Baty on how SDG research is driving new performance metrics, such as the THE Impact Rankings for SDGs.



Dr. Zainal Abidin Sanusi spoke about changing the research and publication ecosystem in Malaysia to be more based on solving problems with greater local impact and recognizing local cultural issues. The following panel discussion chaired by Phil Campbell discussed many societal challenges in Malaysia particularly in food supply, water and land use and the framework of SDG in Malaysia.

The roundtables have been an important part of Springer Nature’s strategy for growth in Southeast Asia for the past four years and this is the first time we have been held fully virtually. While this format did allow us to reach out to a broad audience, it was still unfortunate that we could not use the opportunity for deep engagement with key stakeholders in person as we have done in the past. Springer Nature is hoping that we can move to a hybrid event format next year where we can take our learnings from this event and combine it with real in-person engagement.

These events allow Springer Nature to provide an important forum for discussion among local stakeholders and show we are concerned with the issues that local researchers care most about.

