

FEATURES

GROWING TREES HARVESTING BENEFIT



Germplasm Repository : Rare Fruits of Our Heritage

Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Jabatan Landskap Negeri Melaka (JLNM) organised a Tree Planting Project; Growing Trees Harvesting Benefits with a theme, *Germplasm Repository: Rare Fruits of Our Heritage*. The launching ceremony was held on Sunday, 21st May 2017, 10.00 am at Selandar, Jasin, Melaka.

Housing Exco, Local Government and State Environmental, Datuk Ar. Ismail bin Othman officiated the launching ceremony of tree planting program of rare fruits at Hutan Simpan Bukit Sedanan. The opening ceremony was also attended by Dato' LAr. Ismail bin Ngah, Presiden of Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia, Dato' Dr. Abd Latif Mohmod, Director of FRIM, and Puan Sapiah Haron, Director of JLNM.

Planting trees is important to ensure that rare genetic resources of fruit is always reserved for use by today's generation and future. Trees collection efforts should be done consistently, especially in the outskirts of the village, forest and recreation areas identified as having a wide range of plant species.

22 JUNE 2017



A total of 188 rare fruit trees from 28 species were planted simultaneously by representatives of institutions or companies also contributed in the purchase of rare fruit trees at the tree planting program.



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Each representative personally planted the trees for growth and posterity, as long as they stay alive and we recorded your contribution towards creating the BIM Germplasm Repository Heritage for the Rare Species of our Fruits.



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PAM STATEMENT ON THE FIRE SAFETY ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRAGIC GRENFELL TOWER FIRE IN LONDON

For immediate release

First and foremost our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and community who suffered as a result of the recent tragic Grenfell Tower fire in North Kensington in London.

As Architects, it is always a special concern to us when lives are lost through building failures likes this. We do not need to be remembered of our own Highland Towers or the recent fire incident at Hospital Sultanah Aminah JB.

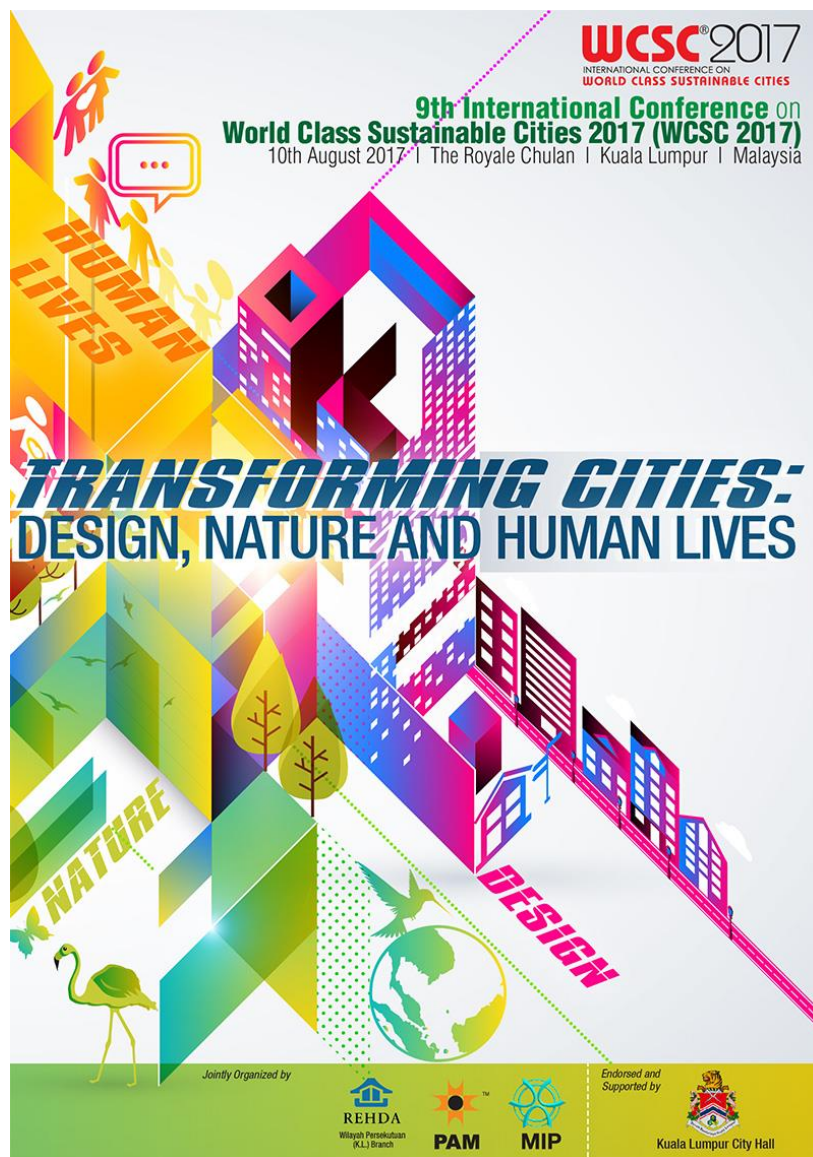
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22 JUNE 2017

9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD CLASS SUSTAINABLE CITIES (WCSC), 10 AUGUST 2017, THE ROYALE CHULAN KL

“Transforming Cities: Design, Nature and Human Lives”

10th August 2017, The Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



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CURRENT ISSUES

WEE: MEGA PROJECT, MEGA GAINS

The Star, 17 April 2017

PETALING JAYA: Engineers in Malaysia have been urged to take advantage of the opportunities from the RM144bil worth of projects inked by China, Saudi Arabia and India with the Malaysian Government.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said that engineers have to make sure they, too, will benefit from the mega projects.



"There's always mixed feelings among engineers on how the foreign direct investment will benefit them or the local community.

"We also often hear about the Belt and Road initiative or other mega projects carried out in other countries," he said in his speech during the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) 58th Annual Dinner and Awards Night.

Dr Wee also urged IEM to link up engineers in Malaysia with its counterparts in other countries such as China and India, and ensure that they get maximum benefits from the Belt and Road initiative.

During the event, Dr Wee was conferred the AseaAsean Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) Distinguished Honorary Fellow Award, in recognition of his invaluable service to the development and progress of the nation and his support to the engineering profession and fraternity.

The award was presented to Dr Wee by IEM president Tan Yean Chin.

The AFEO award is granted upon persons of acknowledged eminence who have rendered outstanding service to the engineering profession and their respective countries within Asean.

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Shell Projects and Technology Malaysia was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for its Malikai Deepwater Tension Leg Platform Project, the country's first tension leg platform, a floating oil production facility moored to the seabed 500m underwater.

Eco World Development Group Bhd, Ekovest Bhd, Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd, Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd and IJM-JAKS Joint Venture each received the IEM Award for Contribution to Engineering Industry in Malaysia in their respective fields.

The night also saw 36 top engineering students across the country receiving the IEM Gold Medal Award.

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PRASARANA ON TRACK TO COMPLETE AWARD OF LRT3 MAIN PACKAGES BY JULY

The Star, 25 April 2017

KUALA LUMPUR: Prasarana Malaysia Bhd is on track to award its main packages for the 37km Light Rail Transit 3 project by July, said president and group chief executive officer Datuk Seri Azmi Abdul Aziz.

To-date, the group has completed systems work packages and is now looking into civil work package tenders.

It is confident the contract awarding process would go on as scheduled.

“We expect to complete the award of tenders for all major work packages by July. As promised, 40% of the total contracts would be awarded to bumiputra contractors,” he told reporters at the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd and the Institution of Engineers in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

“We hope those awarded the packages would start work before the year-end ... some of the early work in several areas along the track, especially at the depot area, has already begun,” he said.

The MoU was signed by Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd chief executive



officer Datuk Zohari Sulaiman and IEM president Tan Yean Chin.

On the MoU, Zohari said the collaboration between both parties was aimed at further elevating the profession and industry.

He said as the pioneer and leader in urban rail, both Rapid Rail and IEM saw plenty of opportunities where both could work together for the benefit of the industry.

On this, Azmi said engineering talents in the country were still at various levels where for work involving systems, particularly signalling, the country was still relying on foreign companies to provide the service.

“We still need to work while encourage local talents to bring themselves up to the international standard. He added, at present Prasarana had more than 400 engineering graduate staff with some 50% working at Rapid Rail.” - Bernama

22 JUNE 2017

BIOCHAR BANTU LESTARIKAN PERTANIAN

Utusan Online, 4 May 2017



DR. ROSAZLIN ABDULLAH menerangkan perbezaan hasil tanaman sawi yang diletakkan biochar dan tanpa biochar kepada penduduk kampung.

Pertanian merupakan satu sektor penghasilan produk utama makanan di negara ini. Iklim dan cuaca yang panas dan lembap sepanjang tahun menjadikan negara ini sesuai dalam menghasilkan produk pertanian secara berterusan. Di samping penghasilan produk, sektor pertanian turut menghasilkan sisa yang perlu diuruskan secara baik.

Banyak langkah telah diambil untuk mengitar semula sisa pertanian antaranya termasuklah penghasilan perabot daripada batang kelapa sawit dan juga kompos. Namun, langkah ini hanya dilaksanakan oleh industri yang menjalankan pertanian berskala besar.

Lain pula bagi petani dan peladang secara kecil-kecilan, sisa pertanian ini sering kali akan dibuang atau dikumpulkan di satu tempat dan akan dibiarkan ataupun dibakar.

Secara tidak sedar, proses penguraian dan pembakaran sisa pertanian ini akan menghasilkan gas rumah hijau (GHG) yang merupakan sumber utama pemanasan global.

Bagi mengatasi masalah ini, penyelidik dari Institut Sains Biologi Universiti Malaya, **Dr. Rosazlin Abdullah** bersama sekumpulan pensyarah dan pelajar telah memperkenalkan teknologi biochar kepada masyarakat melalui program Jalinan Masyarakat UMCares 2016: Projek Biochar untuk Kelestarian Pertanian dan Alam Sekitar dengan kerjasama dari JKK Kg. Seri Cheeding Banting, Selangor. Biochar merupakan arang hitam khusus yang terhasil daripada pembakaran sisa organik pertanian, penternakan dan perhutanan.

“Teknologi mengenai biochar diketengahkan sebagai salah satu penyelesaian masalah pengurusan sisa pertanian kepada komuniti. Selain menggalakkan aktiviti kitar semula, biochar juga berfungsi sebagai penambah baik kualiti tanah,” katanya ketika ditemui baru-baru ini.

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Pelaksanaan projek ini adalah bawah seliaan dan peruntukan dari Pusat Komuniti dan Kelestarian Universiti Malaya (UMCares).

Menurut Pengarah UMCares, **Prof. Dr. Nurzulaani Khalid**, projek tersebut merupakan sebahagian daripada usaha UMCares untuk membolehkan pensyarah UM berkongsi teknologi dan kepakaran dengan masyarakat.

“Saya yakin dan percaya bahawa usaha murni para penyelidik Institut Sains Biologi bersama komuniti Kg. Seri Cheeding, Banting, Selangor dalam memperkenalkan aplikasi teknologi biochar dapat meningkatkan lagi kesedaran serta tanggungjawab untuk melestarikan alam sekitar melalui amalan kitar semula sisa tanaman,” katanya juga penyelidik dari Institut Sains Biologi, UM.

Objektif utama projek ini dijalankan adalah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai pengurusan sisa dan menggalakkan aktiviti kitar semula dalam kehidupan seharian masyarakat kampung.

Projek ini juga bertujuan untuk menambah baik kualiti tanah melalui aplikasi biochar ke atas tanah dan pelaksanaan pertanian organik secara lestari dengan pengaplikasian biochar dalam skala kecil. Menerusi penghasilan dan pengaplikasian biochar, diharapkan agar dapat meningkatkan pendapatan komuniti.

Secara menyeluruhnya, projek ini dilaksanakan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat berkaitan dengan aplikasi amalan organik dalam memupuk gaya hidup lestari.

Menurut Pengerusi JKK Kg. Seri Cheeding, lokasi projek ini dilaksanakan, **Hassan Musman**, projek tersebut merupakan satu usaha yang amat bermanfaat dari pelbagai aspek, antaranya dari sudut sains, ekonomi dan kelestarian alam sekitar.

“Program ini telah berjaya membimbing penduduk kampung mengenai teknik penghasilan biochar yang berasaskan bahan yang terdapat di sekitar kampung yang mampu mendorong petani untuk mengitar semula sisa tanaman mereka,” katanya.

Bagi mencapai objektif projek berkenaan, beberapa program telah dijalankan antaranya bengkel biochar, demonstrasi penghasilan biochar, penghasilan dan pengaplikasian biochar ke atas tanaman sawi hijau bersama komuniti. Bengkel biochar dan demonstrasi telah disertai lebih daripada 150 peserta melibatkan penduduk kampung, pelajar-pelajar dari SK Seri Cheeding, SMK Jenjarom, Sek. Men. Sains Banting dan kelab SPAS UM.

Ketua Penasihat Persatuan Sains dan Teknologi dari SMK Jenjarom, **Masina Misnan** berkata, teknologi biochar merupakan pendedahan kepada ilmu baharu yang masih ramai belum ketahui.

“Program ini sesuai terutama kepada pelajar yang mempelajari subjek Sains dan Sains Pertanian dan juga petani dari kampung kerana ilmu baharu yang diterima boleh dipraktikkan sendiri. Dengan adanya sesi demonstrasi yang menarik, para pelajar dapat mempelajari dan memahami mengenai biochar yang disampaikan”

27 APRIL 2017

Teknologi penghasilan biochar yang diperkenal adalah menggunakan alat yang mudah dan selamat.

Mudah, praktikal untuk penduduk

Bagi Setiausaha Kg. Seri Cheeding, Banting, Selangor, **Zahir Tahar**, teknologi penghasilan biochar ini adalah mudah dan praktikal untuk penduduk kampung.

“Sepanjang penglibatan saya dalam penghasilan biochar ini, saya dapati bahawa teknologi yang diperkenal adalah mudah untuk dihasilkan terutama sekali alat yang digunakan adalah mudah alih dan dihasilkan dari bahan kitar semula yang boleh dihasilkan sendiri,” katanya.

Selain bengkel dan demonstrasi, penghasilan dan pengaplikasian biochar ke atas tanaman turut dijalankan bersama penduduk kampung secara praktikal.

Sebanyak 21 batas disediakan bagi penanaman sayur sawi menggunakan lima jenis biochar.

Menurut pendapat peserta yang terlibat, **Azhar Kattan**, pengenalan mengenai teknologi pertanian yang maju dengan mengekalkan konsep mesra alam adalah sangat bagus. Hal ini kerana teknik biochar yang diperkenal telah berjaya diuji keberkesannya terhadap pertanian dan alam sekitar.

“Pada pendapat saya, projek ini amat bagus dijalankan kerana dapat memberi pendedahan kepada orang ramai tentang kesedaran alam sekitar.

“Saya berharap generasi akan datang turut mengadakan projek sebegini. Saya juga percaya jika produk biochar dikomersialkan pasti ramai akan menggunakannya kerana kesan biochar terhadap hasil tanaman amat bagus,” ujar JKK Kg Seri Cheeding, **Zainuddin Sanip** pula.

Secara keseluruhannya, projek tersebut telah memberi pendedahan mengenai teknologi biochar yang telah diguna pakai oleh negara luar untuk meningkatkan kualiti tanah, hasil tanaman dan dalam masa yang sama dapat membantu menjaga alam sekitar.

Selain itu, penghasilan dan pengaplikasian biochar juga boleh dijadikan sebagai sumber pendapatan kepada komuniti Kg. Seri Cheeding.

Sebarang maklumat tambahan mengenai penyelidikan biochar ini boleh didapati melalui Dr. Rosazlin Abdullah di rosazlin@um.edu.my

DESIGNS THAT INSPIRE

The PAM Awards 2017 honoured well-thought out designs that breakaway from the norm

The Star, 17 May 2017



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Designs that inspire

The PAM Awards 2017 honoured well-thought out designs that break away from the norm.

Star2 17 May 2017 By WONG LI ZA star2@thestar.com.my

MALAYSIAN architects had their “Oscars” night last Friday, at which a “Building of the Year” and gold medal winners in different competition categories were announced.

A collective sigh of relief probably accompanied the announcements

At last year’s Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) Awards, there were no gold

medal winners nor a Building of the Year; the latter, Malaysia’s highest architectural honour, was established in 2014 and, counting this year, has only been awarded twice.

PAM sent a message to the industry last year: While there was quality in the projects submitted in 2016, they were lacking in other important aspects, it seems. It was a reminder that

these awards are held to promote not only design excellence but also the advancement of a quality built environment with beneficial social, physical, and cultural impacts as well as diversity in Malaysian architecture.

PAM president Mohd Zulhemlee An said last year that the jury had looked for “truly Malaysian architecture”, de-

22 JUNE 2017



Search Results



Denai Alam Phase J15, Shah Alam Architect: S&A Architects Sdn Bhd
Category: Multiple Residential (Low Rise), SilverJury citation: This is a pleasant, easy-garden-access residential estate that affords generous outdoor living while also offering indoor comfort.

signs in line with local culture and lifestyles, and didn't find any deserving of a gold medal in the 121 submissions.

This year, they did, despite receiving fewer entries at 77.

The "Building of the Year" award went to the Twinkle Villa

project in Kampung Janda Baik, Bentong, Pahang.

Also notable are the revival of a historical fort and a mosque that challenges design conventions.

This year, 10 categories were open for nominations: Alteration and Addition, Commercial (Low Rise), Conservation, Education, Multiple Residential (Low Rise), Planning and Master Planning, Public and Institutional, Showroom, Single Residential, Sport and Recreation.

All categories had gold or silver medal winners except for the Alteration & Addition and Showroom categories; submissions in these two areas re-

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Search Results



Project: Conservation of Fort Alice, Sri Aman, Sarawak
Architect: Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd

Project: Conservation of Fort Alice, Sri Aman, Sarawak
Architect: Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd
Category: Conservation, Gold
Jury citation: The attention to detail reflected in the restoration of this old fort is truly amazing while the effort made to engage the local community in helping to preserve history for future generations is just as impressive. (Inset: the back view.)

ceived only Commendation awards.

The 2017 jury comprised

Mohd Zulhemlee again, in his position of outgoing PAM president; architect Almaz Salma Abdul Rahim; architectural academician Dr Mariam Jamaludin; and designer Zachary Haris Ong.

Here are the top winners in the eight categories that received medals, and the jury citations. (All photos via PAM.)



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22 JUNE 2017

PERLUASAN PENANAMAN POKOK NADIR

Sinar Harian, 25 May 2017

Perluas penanaman pokok nadir

Kerajaan negeri mahu pastikan tanaman itu tidak pupus untuk kegunaan generasi akan datang

SELANDAR - Kerajaan negeri menyarankan pihak berkenaan memelihara kewujudan pokok nadir bagi memastikan ia tidak pupus pada masa hadapan.

Exco Perumahan, Kerajaan Tempatan dan Alam Sekitar negeri, Datuk Ar Ismail Othman berkata, usaha pengumpulan pokok nadir itu perlu diperluaskan dan dilakukan secara berterusan.

Menurutnya, pokok atau buah nadir kini semakin jarang ditanam secara komersial, justeru ia juga semakin sukar ditemui.

Penanaman pokok nadir penting bagi memastikan sumber genetik buah-buahan tersebut sentiasa terpelihara untuk kegunaan generasi hari ini dan akan datang.

"Ia akan dijadikan bahan rujukan atau sumber genetik dalam penyelidikan pembaik bakaan pokok itu," katanya yang mewakili Ketua Menteri, Datuk Seri Idris Haron pada Majlis Pelancaran Penanaman Pokok Buah-Buahan Nadir di Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM), Hutan Simpan Bukit Sedanan di sini.

Tambah Ar Ismail, usaha pengumpulan pokok itu perlu dilakukan secara konsisten terutamanya di kawasan pinggir kampung, hutan rekreasi dan tempat yang dikenal pasti mempunyai pelbagai spesies tumbuhan.

"Spesies yang sukar ditemui itu perlu diberikan perhatian serta dipelihara bagi tujuan kajian dan maklumat buah-buahan itu juga perlu direkodkan.

"Saya yakin menerusi kaji selidik atau soal jawab daripada orang-orang tua yang mengetahui mengenai asal-usul pokok ini dapat menjelaskan kepada kita kegunaan pokok nadir," katanya.

Ar Ismail berkata, Malaysia adalah negara yang bertuah kerana kaya dengan kepelbagaian sumber genetik terutama buah-buahan dengan anggaran tidak kurang 370 spesies buah-buahan yang boleh dimakan.

"Kebanyakan buah masih boleh ditemui di hutan dengan 16 spesies dikelaskan sebagai buah-buahan utama dan selebihnya dikelaskan sebagai buah-buahan nadir.

"Oleh itu, saya minta masyarakat khususnya yang mempunyai kebun dan kawasan penanaman pokok untuk menanam pokok nadir bagi kepentingan generasi akan datang," katanya.

Sebanyak 188 pokok buah-buahan nadir daripada 28 spesies ditanam pada program itu.

Hadir sama, Presiden Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia, Datuk Ar Ismail Ngah; Ketua Pengarah FRIM, Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmood dan Pengarah Jabatan Landskap negeri, Sapiah Haron.



Ar Ismail (tiga, kiri) menyiram pokok buah tampoi sebagai simbolik perasmian penanaman pokok nadir pada Majlis Pelancaran Penanaman Pokok Buah-buahan Nadir di FRIM, Hutan Simpan Bukit Sedanan.

22 JUNE 2017

5 WAYS TO AVOID DEHYDRATION DURING RAMADHAN

The Star, 30 MAY 2017



During the holy month of Ramadan, it's important to remember to eat a balanced diet and keep hydrated before and after the day of fasting. Doing so will help keep you energised throughout the day.

Getting enough water after a day of fasting is important as water is necessary to keep your body functioning. There's a risk of dehydration if you don't drink enough water before fasting, and that can cause dizziness, headaches, lethargy and fatigue.

Drinking the typical eight cups per day is important, but there are other things to remember to help you stay hydrated.

Here are some tips to help you avoid dehydration when you're fasting.

1. Avoid drinks containing caffeine

As much as we love our coffee and tea, these drinks contain caffeine. Caffeine has a diuretic effect that increases urine production, thus flushing out salt and water from the body.

Too much caffeine can result in increased thirst, so to stay hydrated throughout the day, it's best to stick to water. Make sure to have a glass of purified water along with a sweet fruit like dates to help you break your fast.

2. Break fast with plenty of fruit and vegetables



Eating fruits and vegetables aren't just good for your health, but they help with hydration too. Certain fruits and vegetables have high water content, and make for a nutritious and refreshing way to replenish your body after a long day of fasting.

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Some good fruits and vegetables to eat during this season of fasting are watermelons, cucumbers, celery, tomatoes and starfruits. They're perfect to help you stay hydrated with their high water content.

If you don't want to eat the vegetables as they are, try incorporating them into a salad as part of your meal when you break fast.

3. Avoid spicy or salty food

Spicy and salty foods can increase your body's need for water, so keep this in mind and stick to small portions.

If you're cooking during this period, try not to use too much salt or too many spices.

4. Avoid chugging your drinks in one go

Drinking your water in one go will cause your body to flush it out soon after. It's best to sip water throughout the non-fasting hours of the day.

It's important to keep a bottle of water with you during those hours so that you can take some sips whenever you're feeling thirsty.

But ultimately, do make sure to get enough water during the non-fasting hours to avoid dehydration.

5. Avoid exposure to heat



Exposure to heat is inevitable with our tropical climate, but do try to avoid the heat as much as possible.

Hot temperatures will cause sweating, resulting in fluid loss. Try to limit your time outdoors and stick to the shade or cool environments.

While you're staying cool indoors, why not watch some TV to pass the time?

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