

MY GREEN SCHOOL - SEKOLAH HIJAU KU

A Review by Associate Professor Dr Cordelia Mason

Your Excellencies, and most respected Audience.

I am most humbled to be invited to say a few words on the GEM of a book entitled MY GREEN SCHOOL, or in MALAY, SEKOLAH HIJAU KU.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Setiap bangsa memerlukan sebuah impian yang membimbing dan memupuknya ke arah sebuah matlamat yang luar biasa dan berpandangan jauh. Setiap orang memerlukan wawasan yang sehati dengan minda dan jiwanya untuk hidup bahagia sepanjang hayat. Setiap lelaki, wanita dan kanak-kanak merindukan kebahagiaan untuk hidup dengan damai dengan rohnya, masyarakatnya dan alam persekitarannya.

This opening paragraph sets the context for this book. It states that every nation needs a VISION to guide it towards an extraordinary and visionary goal; and every man, woman and child needs a vision aligned to their minds and emotions in order to live happily; and to at peace with their souls, communities and their environment.

To me, MY GREEN SCHOOL, has a universal appeal as the reflections of the author, His Excellency Thakur S Powdyel, resonates with the deepest yearnings of passionate educators to bring back the ideals of education, and to redeem the noble status accorded to our profession.

The book is deeply engaging, and beautifully written and translated. It heightens my hopes as an educator and is at the opposite spectrum of the feelings I get when I listen to Pink Floyd's Another Brick in the Wall. Indeed, if the ideals of the Green School are put into practice, I am confident that we can pick our hopes piece and piece and create a jigsaw of wonder. Sekolah Wangmo, a model Green School, described in detail on Chapter 15, is an example of this.

I will leave the details for you to read, but I would like to share the names of a few concepts of greenery covered in the book.

1. Natural Greenery
2. Social Greenery
3. Cultural Greenery
4. Intellectual Greenery

5. Aesthetic Greenery
6. Spiritual Greenery
7. Moral Greenery

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Hijau adalah warna, tetapi ia juga sebuah metafora. Ia adalah orientasi, sikap dan pandangan. Hijau adalah pro kehidupan. Hijau adalah kehidupan.

Green is a colour, but, and more importantly, it is a metaphor. Green is a metaphor for anything and everything that supports and sustains life, in all its infinite variety. Education has to aspire to the level of greenery to affirm and advance the vital claims on it to be relevant and purposeful.

In short, MY GREEN SCHOOL or SEKOLAH HIJAUKU, is a gem of a book written by a noble teacher – the most widely foot-travelled education minister in world, dedicated to a noble sector - education. Thank you your excellency for this priceless gift to the world. Thank you Prof Dr Haji Zulkifli for making the book more accessible to the Malay speaking world. May the wisdom in this book instil in us the conviction of the power of learning and knowledge; and inspire us to continuously and sustainably ignite the passion for learning.

Tashi Delik. Terima Kasih. Thank you. Salam Sejahtera.