

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 2 NOVEMBER 2015 (ISNIN)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 34
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Hujan lebat kurangkan masalah jerebu

Kuala Lumpur: Hujan lebat yang melanda sejak beberapa hari lalu dilihat berjaya mengurangkan masalah jerebu teruk sejak dua bulan lalu akibat kebakaran hutan di Indonesia.

Berdasarkan kenyataan yang dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia), Semenanjung Malaysia dijangka menerima hujan pada paras purata sepanjang November ini, manakala Johor dan kawasan timur Pahang dijangka menerima jumlah hujan sedikit daripada paras purata pada bulan depan.

Ramalan itu, berikutan negara kini berada dalam monsun Timur Laut.

Bagi Sabah dan Sarawak, kebanyakan kawasan dijangka menerima jumlah hujan pada paras purata kecuali timur Sabah pada November dan Disember.

Perubahan monsun itu sekali gus menyebabkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) di kebanyakan kawasan di seluruh negara mencatatkan bacaan tahap baik dan beberapa kawasan berada pada bacaan sederhana.

Sehingga jam 6 petang semalam, portal Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) menunjukkan terdapat 45 kawasan berada pada bacaan baik, manakala enam kawasan mencatatkan bacaan sederhana.

Enam lokasi itu ialah Pasir Gudang, Johor dengan IPU 52, Bakar Arang, Sungai Petani (52), Bandaraya Melaka (66), Bukit Rambai (54), Cheras, Kuala Lumpur (53) dan Putrajaya (51).

IPU sifar hingga 50 dikategorikan baik, 51 hingga 100 (sederhana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (amat tidak sihat) dan lebih 301 (berbahaya).

Pasang pelepah kelapa hadang angin

» Penduduk siap sedia hadapi musim tengkujuh

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Marang

Musim monsun yang mula melanda Pantai Timur, memaksa penduduk sepanjang pesisir pantai mula membuat persiapan awal sebagai persediaan menghadapi banjir dan ribut.

Tinjauan BH di Kampung Rusila, di sini, yang sering dilanda ribut, mendapati kebanyakan penduduk mula memasang penghadang angin yang diperbuat daripada pelepah kelapa, bagi melindungi kediaman masing-masing daripada angin kencang.

Ia bertujuan mengurangkan impak angin secara terus terhadap rumah mereka kerana lokasinya di tepi pantai dan terdedah kepada ancaman ribut.

Penduduk, Laila Muhammad, 44, berkata setiap kali menjelang musim tengkujuh, keluarganya

mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dengan memasang penghadang angin bagi mengurangkan risiko kerosakan rumah dan harta benda akibat angin kencang.

"Rabu lalu, dua atap rumah tercabut diterbangkan angin. Itu adalah adalah petanda awal untuk kami membuat persiapan segera.

Bina benteng ombak daripada guni pasir

"Setakat ini kami sudah memasang 80 peratus penghadang angin dan akan diperbaiki atau diganti dari semasa ke semasa, untuk memastikan ia berkesan mengurangkan kelajuan angin.

"Selain itu, kami turut membina benteng ombak yang diperbuat daripada guni berisi pasir untuk menahan ombak daripada terus memusnahkan rumah," katanya.

Penduduk, Wan Mohd Sharif Wan Ngah, 44, berkata persediaan awal amat penting dan dia banyak belajar daripada pengalaman lalu selepas sebahagian rumahnya rosak dibadai angin kencang.

Walaupun Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia meramalkan angin kencang dan hujan pada tahun ini tidak sekuat tahun lalu, beliau tetap mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dengan memasang banyak penghadang angin dan benteng pasir untuk mengurangkan risiko kemusnahan.



Penduduk, Musa Zukifli (kanan) dan adik kembarnya, Harun Zulkifli memasang pelepah kelapa untuk menghalang angin kencang yang dijangka melanda ketika tinjauan musim tengkujuh di Kampung Rusila, Marang, semalam.

(FOTO ASWADI ALIAS/BH)

"Tidak dinafikan, setiap kali ti-

ba musim tengkujuh, kami kecut perut dan tidak lena tidur apabila mendengar tiupan angin yang kuat di telinga.

"Bagaimanapun, apa yang

mampu kami lakukan hanya sekadar berjaga-jaga dan sentiasa peka dengan keadaan cuaca yang semakin kerap hujan kebelakangan ini," katanya.

All prepared for the worst

Fire and Rescue Dept officers undergo water training as part of monsoon readiness

KUALA LUMPUR: The monsoon season is coming and the Fire and Rescue Department says it is prepared for things to go as bad as the east coast flood crisis last year.

Over the year, officers in the flood prone states of Kelantan, Pahang and Terengganu have been conducting water training in rivers to test their readiness to evacuate scores of people should water levels rise.

Fire and Rescue Department assistant director-general (Operations Division) Datuk Soiman Jahid said assets had been placed in the states in preparation for the rainy season.

"We are preparing for it to be as bad as last year. We have conducted water training for officers to be well versed in navigating floods and we have made sure our fire engines and boats are all in good working order in those states.

"And we are prepared to freeze all the leave of our officers there



Practical test: The Federal Territory Civil Defence Department personnel undergoing a Boat Handling Training at the National Defence University. — Bernama

once the Meteorological Department issues a red warning on flooding in the eastern states," said Soiman.

Should more manpower be needed, Soiman said firemen in Perak,

Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Johor were at the ready to be deployed to the east coast.

"But it is not only just the Bomba. This is going to be an interagency

effort with coordination with the police, military, the state government down to the district officers. We are all components for each other," he said.

In Terengganu, 700 firemen will be at the ready on 24-hour shifts come the monsoon season.

The state department will deploy 35 aluminium boats and 15 lorries for rescue and evacuation operations while officers will be placed in "flood hotspots" in Chukai, Hulu Besut, Setiu, Kuala Berang and some low lying areas in Dungun.

The Terengganu Civil Defence Department has also instructed all village heads in the state to keep authorities up to date with the latest information on the number of villagers and their conditions, so that rescue operations can be run more efficiently.

They have also advised people to prepare a "ready to go" bag filled with their important documents, diapers and milk formula if there

are infants, and any vital medication.

For Johor, firemen here have been running disaster management courses with local communities living in flood-prone areas at the Juaseh dam to prepare for the year-end rain.

On the Klang Valley, Soiman said the department was concerned of more landslide occurrences during the rainy season, due to the "weak structures" of slopes here.

He said officers have been working with residents associations in hilly areas to prepare for quick evacuations in the event of a landslide.

The national Civil Defence Department is ready to deploy 49,800 regular members and volunteers to aid flood relief operations.

Watch the video
thestar.com.my/Videos/



KERATAN AKHBAR

NEW STRAITS TIMES (LIFE & TIMES): MUKA SURAT 8

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MOBILE app technology and robotics have shown that they can improve human lives in more effective and meaningful ways than before.

From a mere form of entertainment and handy stuff that people used to download and play with, these new apps, which were designed with deep studies, have shown that technology does not just bridge the digital divide, but also opens up new possibilities, especially in under-developed and developing countries.

At the recently concluded Digital Winners Conference in Oslo, Norway, a group of talented young innovators from several Asian countries and Norway gathered under one roof to show how their creations have given new meaning to the lives of their countrymen and the global population in general.

What's interesting about the showcase is that each creation touches the lives of the people, and the experience became the catalyst for their inventions.

LIFE-CHANGING APP
When Ricky Ther Lynn Han and his Bagan Innovation Technology team decided to develop a mobile app, they wanted something that could impact the people of Myanmar in a big way.

With the telecommunications industry being liberated about a year ago, and the establishment of service providers like Telenor in the country, Han knew that the time is right to launch a mobile app that could change people's lives.

There are 52 million people living in Myanmar, but books only reach 20 per cent of the population.
"The people love to read, but getting access to books has always been a problem," he says.

Writers are plenty, as are avid readers, but in a country with a nascent publishing industry, getting their stories to readers en masse is near impossible outside of the major cities.

So Han and his team decided to develop Wun Zinn, a mobile app to enable local writers to reach out to people throughout the country.

Over a year ago, mobile penetration in Myanmar was just 7 per cent, and the price of a SIM card was very prohibitive at US\$200 (RM862).

Today, things have changed where mobile penetration rates have increased to



Norwegian kids (from left) Fredrik Slinning, 13, Lisa Sellaag, 12, and Kirsten Sunde Thaulow, 11, having fun building the Kero robot.

over 50 per cent, according to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Myanmar, while 32.9 per cent of people now have a phone compared to a year ago.

Knowing that Internet access is readily available to the masses, Han and his team have hopes that Wun Zinn will enable the people to have access to books, digitally.

"Most of the writers in Myanmar do not have technical skills to make books available to readers digitally, and they are losing many opportunities. Through Wun Zinn, we take all the physical books from the writers

and convert them into e-books and make them available at our online store," he says.

E-BOOKS IN MYANMAR

Wun Zinn is Myanmar's first and largest online e-book store where users can buy or get free e-books, magazines, newspapers, audio books and animated story books legally.

Currently, it offers 2,000 plus books, 30 plus magazines, and 100 plus audio books from more than 200 writers and publishers.

Wun Zinn delivers e-books in a compressed form so users can download even at slow Internet speed. And there are more cool features like Share on your Facebook, Like and Save your Favorites Quote, Short story, notification on new book addition, etc.

"This is a kind of local Amazon for Myanmar e-books among the Myanmar community across the world. More importantly, this is mobile centric through Android and iOS, so people can read anywhere, anytime," says Han.

"With these books available, people with Internet connection anywhere in the world can download them 24/7," he says.

To overcome the problem of people there not having credit cards, the Wun Zinn app has been designed to accept payment via phone.

This also enables education via mobile devices. We have already signed up with more than 200 writers in Myanmar, with over 100,000 registered users," says Han.

He plans to grow Wun Zinn regionally

especially in Malaysia and Thailand where Telenor has a strong foothold.

"Our vision is to make books available for all so that we can empower people," he says.

ONLINE TUTOR

V. Sundaramoorthy from India's M-Tutor tried to solve problems faced by engineering students in India.

He and his team have developed an application-oriented tutorial app, with contents created by professors from leading institutions and reviewed by professors from the Indian Institute of Technology and National Institutes of Technology.

Launched in 15 universities in India, the app helps students learn concepts of every topic of engineering.

"It's available in regional languages as well," says Sundaramoorthy. "M-Tutor allows students to get connected with all university students, leading faculties in the country and potential employers as well. It has assessments as well," he says.

Currently, there is no strong supplementary education system for students studying engineering and applied sciences.

"They lack in understanding basic concepts and fail to become employable graduates. There is no medium to connect the students to leading faculties and employers," says Sundaramoorthy.

"Many students find it difficult to understand lessons in English during their first year. They badly need a supplementary education on their mobile - their most pre-



ferred medium of communication today," he says, adding that M-Tutor helps them overcome this problem.

To date, M-Tutor has signed MOUs with 10 leading universities in India for their students to use the app.

MALESIAN ROBOTICS

There is something special about the Malaysian robotics team Cytron Technologies with its innovation, the Kero robot - a robot kit that allows the young to learn about programming, robot design and motion control.

The creation was selected for a special preview in front of the Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, who was very pleased with its ability.

"It's a fun and creative way to make students learn science and technology," she said after trying the app created to control the robot.

Besides the Kero robots, Cytron developed an e-learning portal for students to learn how to build robots where various robotics topics are covered to facilitate the younger generation to learn about robot design, coding and motion control at their own pace.

A project sharing platform is also provided to allow students to showcase their robotic creation to the world. This gives

kids who are enthusiastic about robots the opportunity to learn and share innovation in robotics programming," says its founder Phang Chin Yee.

IMPROVING BANGLADESHI STUDENTS
Mohammad Adnan from Bangladesh created the Durbn App, which is a free mobile app designed to solve the educational problems of students from class five to graduation.

The app is aimed at decreasing the drop-out rate by increasing students' interest in their studies by making the textual concepts easy, interesting and low cost. It is also designed to encourage students to chase their dreams.

The app has six features that all students may require. Among these are Vision where one can check a brief description, and basic requirements of the career he or she is pursuing.

Users can also check which universities are currently offering the degree for pursuing the career. There is also a self-study feature to allow students to measure their learning goal.

Wun Zinn from Myanmar won the best app for Asia at this year's Digital Winners Conference.

CREATIVE MINDS

Young innovative minds from around the world gather at Digital Winners Conference in Oslo, Norway to showcase the best in mobile apps and robotics, writes **Izwan Ismail**