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**MYHACKATHON 2020 SOLUTIONS TAKE OFF
NATIONWIDE**



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A total of 18 solutions managed to be developed for the problem statements identified at all levels of the govt

by FAREZZA HANUM RASHID / Pic courtesy of Cradle Fund

VARIOUS digital solutions designed by the winners of MyHackathon 2020 have been gradually deployed to address the new norm in public services, in which the impacts are expected to be seen as early as the middle of next year.

MyHackathon 2020 was an initiative of the National Economic Recovery Plan under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) and executed by Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd.

A total of 18 solutions managed to be developed for the problem statements identified at all levels of the government.

Cradle Fund Group CEO Rafiza Ghazali said the global Covid-19 crisis has negatively impacted the economic and services sectors and our lifestyle.

Businesses of all sizes, government and private services, and people's day-to-day activities were affected.

This called for an inclusive programme where the collective strength of the population, academics and technology community had to be created where ideas, resources and expertise would be combined.

Hence, MyHackathon 2020, the first programme of its kind on a national scale was launched in August last year.

"It was designed so that all parties can work together to find digital solutions to the problems highlighted by target groups," Rafiza said.

MyHackathon 2020 recently concluded with a graduation day ceremony where Ruzaimi Mohamed@Mahmood from Ozel Sdn Bhd was crowned winner of the Best Social Impact Award, while the Best Commercialisation Project Award went to Chai Kok Chin from NEUON AI Sdn Bhd.

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Rafiza said through MyHackathon, the winners had successfully developed people-centred solutions from problem statements identified at federal, state and local county levels.

"We believe that not only the winners, but all participants were able to leverage on experience, networks built as well as critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills fostered throughout the programme.

"Now, they have managed to build solution ideas to a workable level, all of which are being rolled out in stages starting this year," she said.

She added that the 90% virtual programme was evidence that digitisation can improve living standards, in addition to driving innovation, creating opportunities for business and industry, and strengthening national development.

Ozel, also known as "Team iskanDAR", was the overall winner of MyHackathon Johor Baru and was supported by the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperative Ministry, the Johor Association of the Deaf and the Johor Education Department.

It has designed and created an interactive book on basic Islamic learning for the community of deaf people aged three to six years.

Named "Learn the Basic of Islam in Sign Language with ISKANDAR", the book is in line with the national education philosophy that education is the right of all.

“This book is equipped with a mobile application using augmented reality technology for learning the basics of Islam in sign language and it can be used without Internet access.

“Therefore, this interactive book is very suitable to use during the teaching and learning at home sessions, especially during the pandemic,” an Ozel spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, NEUON AI, invented road maintenance with a digital-friendly pothole detection system known as RoadPlus.

RoadPlus has been proven to successfully detect potholes and repair works are carried out within 24 hours.

This start-up has attracted the attention of many parties after winning MyHackathon Kuching, receiving additional support and grants from the Sarawak government.

“RoadPlus integrates artificial intelligence technology in road maintenance and management systems (RMMS).

“In fact, the RMMS that we apply is also based on a systematic approach to planning, management, directing and control of maintenance operations,” Chai said.

RoadPlus has a high commercialisation rate and had successfully penetrated the global market recently with six memoranda of understanding signed at Expo Dubai 2020.

Entrusted with the role of restoring the economic resilience of start-ups to contribute to the development of the country, Cradle Fund will host MyHackathon 2022 with an allocation of RM20 million next year.

Through this programme, Cradle Fund will build and channel high-potential start-ups into the national ecosystem, strengthening public partnerships and supporting the overall national science, technology and innovation agenda.