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## No let-up in emphasis on STEM

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**S**IBU: Efforts by the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD) and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) to strengthen and expand facilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) will continue.

MEITD Deputy Minister Dr Annuar Rapae said the two ministries will ensure that the efforts benefit the students, especially those in the rural areas as STEM is very important in the Industrial Revolution 4.0.

"Indeed, the Sarawak government desires to attach great importance to the field of science, not only in education but also the economy ... a lot depends on

innovation in the field of science based on the industrial revolution 4.0.

"Like it or not the world or the community has to learn science which is STEM so that we will not be left behind," he said when officiating at the Malaysia Techlympics 2022 Sarawak (Peringkat Zon Malaysia Timur, Sarawak) at University of Technology Sarawak (UTS), here yesterday.

Dr Annuar noted that the state government has been very concerned about the two subjects as they realise there is no other way for the people to compete and fully utilise the natural resources without having knowledge in the field of science.

"That's why the state government invests a lot not only in terms of finances but in terms of efforts to strengthen our students in the STEM field and one of the examples is having our own science

centre which hopefully will be completed in two or three years," he said.

Dr Annuar hoped that parents can nurture an interest in STEM in their children from a young age as these subjects, especially mathematics and science, are the most logical and easy-to-score subjects.

"It is a very logical (subject) and also it has something that can be seen, felt, and then enjoyed. Science for example is a subject that can be translated into theory and practice, that's why we have to increase interest in these subjects in our students.

"This interest is often avoided due to fear of failure. If we nurture them from the beginning, it is impossible for them not to be able to master science and mathematics.

"To me, everyone is born equal and as long as you emphasise a lot on mathematics and science you

will become excellent in these two subjects," he said.

Meanwhile, the ministry's assistant secretary (Culture and Science, Technology and Innovation services) Dr K Nagulendran said about 1,000 students from the state are participating in the Techlympics.

"Until now, a total of 1,028,983 Malaysians, aged between 7 and 30, have registered to participate in various types of competitions and sharing sessions of Malaysia Techlympics programme since its launch by the Prime Minister last March," he said.

He hoped that Budget 2023 will announce bigger allocations to the programme which is aimed at stimulating the activities of science, technology, and national innovation (STI) through experiential learning for completing non-formal learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics or STEM among the participants.



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### SUMMARIES

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