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One million take part in 2022 Techlympics

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

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Students, youths compete in 32 competitions under 5 main themes

LUQMAN HAKIM
 KUALA LUMPUR
 news@nst.com.my

THE final stage of the Malaysia Techlympics 2022 competition concluded on Nov 27, with thousands of students, youths and teachers presenting their innovative ideas.

Techlympics is a flagship programme by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to promote the culture of science and spark creativity among students and youths.

The Techlympics 2022 programme was held from April to November, with a target of one million participants (in groups), from school and higher education institution students to youths.

With the theme "Bersaing, Berhubung, Berjaya" (Compete, Connect, Celebrate), the event recorded 1.03 million entries, with contestants ranging from 7 to 30 years old.

During the finals, 32 competitions under five main themes were of-

fered and they focused on areas involving engineering, computing and microcomputers, nanotechnology, Internet of Things, robotics, drones, science, mathematics, creative design and animation, and printing and three-dimensional development.

Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim said the effort made was crucial to foster innovative ideas and interest in science, technology, and innovation, as well as raise Malaysians' capabilities for inventing.

He added that it was also in line with the desire to drive an economy based on innovation to catalyse development.

"Techlympics has been shaped as a holistic approach that not only lets students and youths compete, but also encourages teamwork and connection. This enables them to highlight their innovations together in the competition," he said.

"Training is also provided in the programme in terms of communication and business to equip the younger generation with abilities to bring their ideas to the next level.

"The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry is targeting more than 2,000 potential ideas to be developed towards commercialisation through this programme.

"This effort can support various ministry efforts, such as giving birth



Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim (sixth from left) presenting the 2022 National Young Scientist Award to Dr Ang Wei Lun at the closing of the Malaysia Techlympics 2022 competition at Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil on Sunday. (Inset) Participants showing their unmanned aerial vehicle on the second day of the competition in Kuala Lumpur recently. PIX BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI AND COURTESY OF THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MINISTRY



to 5,000 start-ups by 2025."

Aminuddin said every competition was arranged based on a "problem-solving" criterion, where participants will generate innovative ideas based on the themes.

Various informal learning activities were set up as well, such as workshops, webinars, games, manufacturing labs, competitions, quizzes and exhibitions.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, through the Malaysia Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI), also provided a "Training of Trainers" course to more than 5,800 teachers to improve their skills in the science, technology and innovation field.

The programme also involved students and youths from urban and rural areas and the Orang Asli community, as well as people with disabilities.

A total of 150 children with special needs from eight schools and 545 Orang Asli children were also involved in the school-level competitions, up to the zone-level competitions.

"I am proud to say that the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry has succeeded in bridging the science, technology and innovation knowledge gap between students in urban areas and students in rural areas.

"This is in line with the programme's nature, which is inclusivity, so that more target groups

get the chance to be involved in creating innovative products using a non-formal approach.

"The students have been trained and supplied with kits to learn and compete."

Techlympics became the platform for what could be revolutionary ideas from participants across the country, with 2,000 potential ideas gathered.

An example would be the development ideas for unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) concepts that Aminuddin shared.

"Team IBR-UAV from SMK Ibrahim is developing a UAV that can be used for searching and locating flood victims.

"The Ace team from SMS Seri Puteri is designing a drone that can carry portable oxygen tubes.

"The TI Girls 3 team from SMK Temenggong Ibrahim had the idea of developing a UAV equipped with a camera and ultrasonic distance sensor to assist the Fire and Rescue Department during monsoon seasons."

Aminuddin said the "Jangkauan Keterangkuman" Programme by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and MRANTI has been the most impactful out of the other activities under Techlympics.

The ministry, through MRANTI, has toured 66 schools, higher learning institutions and locations, involving 26,645 students and youths, as well as 545 teachers and

lecturers around the world.

Teams who emerged victorious in their categories also shared their excitement.

MRSM Bentong's Amirul Hakim Sharul Nizam, member of team BENTECH 5, who won the "Pertanian Pintar" challenge, said his team faced many obstacles in the competition.

"We faced issues with the components, such as damaged pipes, as well as the programming of the system. It was a bittersweet experience for us.

"As we are still young, of course, we were flustered when the issues cropped up, to the point that we felt like crying.

"But everyone remained calm and thought of solutions.

"I joined this competition thanks to my team captain."

Captain Alif Iskandar Md Faizal said he saw potential in everyone and himself.

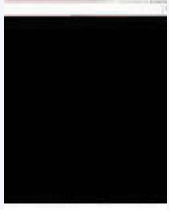
Team BYTE US from SMK Sulaiman, which won the "CubeSat" challenge, said support from people close to him helped them achieve victory.

Team member Haziq Himayatullah Huslizam said parents and teachers played important roles in their journey.

"Our parents are our source of inspiration, providing support and other needs. Not to forget our teachers, too, who have been guiding us along the way."



Students presenting their project at an exhibition for the Malaysia Techlympics 2022 competition in Kuala Lumpur recently.



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SUMMARIES

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