

MEDIA RELEASE

13 October 2017

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NURTURING ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS VITAL TO MALAYSIA'S DIGITAL NATION-BUILDING

KUALA LUMPUR (13 October 2017) – The explosive growth of social media, driven by proliferation of smartphones and digital devices is transforming the lives of Gen Z in schools and at home. It is of paramount importance that young digital citizens equip themselves with the knowledge, skills, and attitude to leverage the potential benefits of digital technologies, while being resilient to the risks. The rally call to Malaysia's youth was made by YB Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation during his speech at the 5th National ICT Security Discourse (NICTSeD) – CyberSAFE Challenge Trophy 2017.

“While the government and industry have made great progress in our quest to make the Internet a safer place for young people, we recognize that risks and danger remain. Our youth is most vulnerable to the cyber threats and risks associated with the Internet. It is therefore important for teachers and parents to play a proactive role in inculcating awareness and promoting positive and responsible use of Internet. The National ICT Security Discourse 2017 is one such initiative that helps nurtures a resilient and ethical digital citizen to be ‘Always Smart, Always Safe Online’,” said the Minister.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Ministry of Education (MOE) and CyberSecurity Malaysia have called upon more Malaysian organizations from the private sector to contribute towards helping Malaysia's future generations develop strong competencies in navigating the cyber space.

Meanwhile, CyberSecurity Malaysia CEO Dato' Dr. Haji Amirudin Abdul Wahab said, “Internet has revolutionized the way our children learn, play and interact with one another. The shift in communication and social interaction has given rise to many challenges such as



online games and social media addiction, cyber-bullying, and cyber-stalking. If left unchecked, the social problems will spiral into a serious menace that will harm our future generation. We must find a balance in empowering and protecting our children online.”

Based on CyberSecurity Malaysia’s statistics, 379 cases of cyber harassment were reported in the first six months of 2017 while according to the CyberSecurity Malaysia and MOE baseline study 2016 on Cyber Safety Awareness among Children in Schools, it shows that 56.3% of the children are aware of the ability to set the privacy setting of their social media account. This indicates that, they know how to keep themselves safe while surfing the Internet.

Through NICTSeD 2017, CyberSecurity Malaysia in collaboration with Bahagian Teknologi Pendidikan (BTP) from the MOE, MOSTI, DiGi Telecommunications, BAE Systems as well as EC Council aims to provide a platform for secondary students to exchange knowledge about cyber security in the global world and understand the potential cyber threats.

NICTSeD 2017 attracted a particularly high standard of participants involving 84 secondary schools nationwide. 64 students across Malaysia involved in the qualifying round in Kedah from 5th to 9th August 2017. Competing in the grand final are schools from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Aminuddin Baki, Kuala Lumpur and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Cyberjaya, Selangor. The topic for Grand Final of NICTSeD 2017- *“25.51% of parents were responsible for teaching students on how to use the Internet (National Baseline Study on Cyber Security Awareness 2016). In a hypothetical situation, the parents of your schoolmates are lackadaisical towards computer security. Propose a programme to acculturate these parents to be responsible Digital Citizens”* was keenly debated before a distinguished panel of experts comprising academicians and cyber security professionals from the industry. The winning team, Sekolah XXX was presented with the CyberSAFE Challenge trophy, certificates of participation and RM5,000 prize money.

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