



PRESS RELEASE

DRONE & DRONE TECHNOLOGY MODULE HANDOVER CEREMONY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHOOL DRONE SQUAD IN JOHOR

Educational drones were distributed to participating schools in Johor for students' early exposure to drone technology, priming them to become industry-ready.

JOHOR BAHRU, 24 April 2022 - Malaysian drone tech company Meraque Services Sdn Bhd (Meraque) has sponsored educational drones and school drone technology module to three (3) schools across Johor as part of its effort to nurture tech talents and train the younger generation future proof skills. This corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme by Meraque is in line with the calling of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

Fly with Meraque is a partnership effort with the 'School Drone Squad' initiative by the Malaysian Air Youth Club (KRUM), a curricular club with an aim to create awareness around drone technology amongst secondary Malaysian school students. The programme is supported by the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI), an agency that champions the development of local young talent in drone technology.

As part of Meraque's ongoing local drone talent development push, the programme will help inculcate the students an interest in drone technology and its application. The syllabus, which will be delivered by KRUM through extracurricular drone club activities, will equip, support and enhance the

capabilities of the students through innovative drone courses and new-age skills, priming them for future employment opportunities in the drone space. Fly with Meraque was officiated by YB Dato' Sri Dr Adham Bin Baba, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) on 24 April 2022 at the Dewan Majlis Daerah Kota Tinggi in Bandar Tenggara, Kulai.

YB Dato' Sri Dr Adham Bin Baba, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) said: "With drone technology playing a transformative role across the globe, Malaysia must make haste to be a pioneer to pave the way forward. Malaysia aspires to be a major player in the global drone industry as well as a potential drone hub in ASEAN. We have many homegrown drone companies that are helping us realise this but we must also remain cognizant of the future- our drone talent of tomorrow."

"Do we have sufficient talent with the right skillset to reap the benefits of this thriving industry in the next few years? Are our youth primed for employment opportunities in drones locally and abroad? Programmes like Fly with Meraque are a step forward in steering Malaysian youth in the right direction. It is a much-need, fast-tracking initiative and a catalytic push to ensure we have a vibrant talent pool with the right skills required to propel this emergent industry. I laud this initiative and hope to see more programmes like this that foster inquisitiveness and stimulate interest from the ground up, ensuring equal opportunities for all," Dr Adham continued.

Aside from the drones, the donations included drone training modules, career opportunities, intensive classes, study tours and club activities. More than 600 students from SMK Sultan Alauddin in Felda Bukit Besar, Kulai, SMK Seri Pinang in Bandar Tenggara, Kulai and SMK Taman Scientex, Pasir Gudang are expected to benefit from the donations from Meraque while about 7,000 students registered for Kelab Rakan Udara Malaysia with schools under MOE and MRSM will benefit from the module as well.

Chief Executive Officer of Meraque, Md Razalee Ismail said: "Meraque has always been committed to community betterment activities through drone educational programmes. We believe in investing in students to inculcate a passion for drones as they will eventually be the future of this industry, and

even our company. This CSR programme will enhance the level of instruction we can offer these students.”

“According to recent study by MRANTI, the Malaysia Drone Economy is expected to contribute RM 50bil to the GDP by 2030. To be able to tap this growing opportunity, we, as a nation, must swiftly increase the number of skilled workers in the drone sector. By providing students with early exposure to drone technology through a safe and guided curriculum, we hope to equip them with the necessary skills sets to become industry-ready and eventually, expose them to career opportunities in the field. This CSR programme is part of Meraque’s commitment to pioneering human capital development in the technology and manufacturing industries,” he added.

Earlier this year, Meraque announced its partnership with the Malaysian Air Youth Club, Malaysian Youth Council and Tenggara Parliament Coordinating Office to cultivate 500 youth by 2023 to meet the demands of the growing Malaysian drone industry through training and skilling programmes. The Malaysian Young Generation Drone Technology Career Development Program (Program Pembangunan Kerjaya, Teknologi Dron Generasi Muda Malaysia) kicked off with a 2-day recruitment drive, a drone exhibition and an agro-drone demo.

Meraque also provides Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) certified drone training for adults looking to expand their skills.

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**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI)
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About Meraque Services Sdn Bhd

Meraque is a digital transformation and technology company Soaring Above & Beyond, Powered by Innovation & Passion! The organisation has pivoted from a conventional facilities management company to become one of the fastest-growing Drone Technology services companies ranked #19 globally by Drone Industry Insights.

Our current technologies are focusing on our Hybrid Drone in the agriculture sector, Enterprise Software and Hardware Solutions for Palm Plantation Management, Telco Infrastructure Inspection and commercial Drone Delivery solutions.

The heart of our vision is to deliver positive transformational solutions through the adoption of technology and adherence to sustainable practices.

For more information, visit: <https://www.meraque.com/>

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