

New programmes to intensify application of STI in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: The State government continues to prioritise the development and culturalisation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Sabah.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said to intensify the application and culturalisation of STI at the grassroots level, the State government with the help of the Technology and Innovation Development Council Sabah (MaPTIS) have implemented several new programmes such as the Sabah Science Awards Ceremony and Malaysia Techlympics 2023.

Hajiji said the first Digital Internet of Things (IoT) Sandbox in Borneo has been operating in Kota Kinabalu with the aim of encouraging the local community to be creative and innovative, in addition to intensifying the commercialisation of local innovations.

"The State government will also continue the rural community innovation programme through the Digital Economy Centre (PEDI) and e-Desa centre. We also plan to establish Science and Innovation Centres in each zone. Some projects in progress for this implementation include the construction of a science centre and 'Maker Space' at the Sandakan and Tawau State library branches.

Therefore, the State government will create more libraries in Sabah that are equipped with reading and reference materials related to STI," he said in his speech for the opening of state-level National Science Week (MSN) Carnival 2023 and Malaysia Techlympics 2023 at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here on Thursday.

The speech was read by State Science, Technology and Innovation (KSTI) Minister Datuk Dr Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif.

Hajiji said the implementation of Malaysia Techlympics 2023 is based on STI and was designed to attract students in learning the latest technology and outwardly applying them through innovative inventions such as robotics and drones.

"The total number of participants of Sabah in the Malaysia Techlympics 2023 competition has increased from 31,955 in 2022 to 78,884 in 2023," he added.

Hajiji said the State government always supports and welcomes initiatives that are implemented under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia (MOSTI), and the State government's strategic collaboration with MOSTI through KSTI includes the ongoing Borneo Science Adventure which lasts from Aug



Arthur (second left), Arifin (third left) and Kasim (third right) posing with one of the winners of the State-level Malaysia Techlympics competition.

21 until Oct 1 this year, covering various districts such as Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Kimanis, Kalabakan and Pensiangan.

He hopes that the children of Sabah can take advantage of the government's initiative through MOSTI, especially in mobilising the implementation of various initiatives, programmes and activities as well as pushing STI awareness and culturalisation in an integrated manner.

The availability of the State government in helping to ensure the implementation

of State-level MSN 2023 and Malaysia Techlympics 2023 is a success is a manifestation of our commitment to culturalising STI in the local community.

The implementation of this carnival is also to celebrate the diversity of STIs and provide opportunities to local STI movers and practitioners, highlighting technology and innovation to the people of Sabah, especially the target youth group in the field of technology," he said.

Also present at the officiating ceremony were MOSTI Deputy Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph

Kurup and UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur.

Meanwhile, Arthur said the National Science Week (MSN) carnival and Malaysia Techlympics competition are implemented either physically or online, in order to increase involvement and participation from the local community.

He said the implementation of MSN and Malaysia Techlympics is in line with the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (DSTIN) 2021-2030, which emphasizes

an integrated, consistent and inclusive implementation of various STI culturalisation initiatives to raise awareness among Malaysians.

Arthur said the implementation of MSN 2023 involves a strategic collaboration between MOSTI and the State government, institutes of higher education (IPT), non-governmental organizations (NGO), as well as related associations and industry of implementing programmes and activities in a hybrid manner.

As for the Malaysia Techlympics, he said it is an initiative by MOSTI in an effort to cultivate the interest of the younger generation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through fun competitions, in order to cultivate youth who possess critical minds, an expanded skill set, as well as meaningful and high impact innovations.

Arthur said various categories were offered through the competition, which are based on popular technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), IoT, drones, coding and robotics, adding that it also emphasizes aspects of inclusivity by providing access to basic needs and quality education through an outreach programme which will be implemented throughout Malaysia Techlympics.