

Past experience helped prepare Jennifer for YB

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KOTA KINABALU: Recognising the importance of creativity among young children is vital. This was stressed during the opening of the Sindex 2017-2018 (Sabah Invention and Design Exhibition) final on the involvement of young Sabahans in creating new inventions or innovating things that are useful and able to solve problems in the future.

Guest of honour Jenifer Lasimbang, Assistant Minister of Education and Innovation, in her speech, said Sindex is the right platform to discover and realise dreams of many young and talented Sabahans who yearn to show and express their creativity.

She said her appointment as Assistant Minister in the new portfolio was apt as she has great passion to help develop education through creativity among young people in the State.

She said the rural young generation must not be left behind as they, too, deserve the benefits and opportunity to shine their way as equal as those in urban areas.

There are so many things that can be improved in Sabah in terms of education, said Lasimbang. She pointed out that the young of today are the leaders in the future. Therefore, they need to be well groomed and prepared to face the challenges ahead.

"I was the product of UMS, Unicef, NGOs, a Rotarian and an activist, to name a few. And today I am in the government. I have learned greatly from each designation I was at in the past.

"With the experience I gathered, I believe I can contribute and hopefully make a good change to all the young people who I know are full of talents and with wide imagination.

"I am positively sure our State will benefit and uplift our economy in time to come."

She shared her experience during her term as a chartered member of the Rotary Club of Penampang, saying the four-way test had become her guideline in decision making and changed her perspective as a leader.

"The four-way test had somehow got into me and I can say that it had helped me to be who I am today."

The popular four-way test of being a true Rotarian is:

1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship? And 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The event was held at Wisma Wanita in Likas last weekend and attended by about 300 participants and visitors. It saw 50 finalists from various secondary schools vying for the big prizes provided by the organisers.

She recalled back in 2008 where Mosti (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation) provided funding for the micro-hydro system implemented in Buayan area, an interior of Penampang district where hundreds of residents benefited from the project. She also said during her eight-year tenure with UMS, she worked together with many experts in various fields in developing the training and learning to the students.

"In this 21st century, we need young minds to propel. We must give them enough opportunity to lead this IT world. After all, it is going to be their world where almost everything requires digital and information technology devices.

"My new Ministry is excited to be involved in this kind of activities such as Sindex because this is where the opportunity begins for our young minds.

"I also look forward to work closely with YIM (Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia), an important agency providing a platform to realise further what the young people have innovated."

Jennifer urged Mosti and its agency, YIM, which have contributed immensely in Sindex projects to continue providing support so that there is a continuation in inspiring the young to have the eagerness and interest to keep on innovating and creating.

Sindex was jointly organised by 13 Rotary Clubs in Sabah and in collaboration with Mosti, YIM, Ministry of Education and Innovation Sabah, Sabah Education Department, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Institute of Engineer Association Sabah Chapter (IEM), Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, Sabah chapter (PAM) and Daily Express as the media partner.

Organising Chairman George Ligunjang, in thanking all those who were involved in the success of the programme, conveyed his profound gratitude.

"The success of this project is due to everyone's commitment and perseverance. I would not be able to handle it hadn't you all been giving your support and cooperation," he said.

The next Sindex will be held in 2020.



Jennifer visiting booths of 50 finalists in the Sindex.