



Tangau is being briefed by one of the students.

New programme to boost interest in science, maths

Ricardo Unto PE 14.8.2017 2

TUARAN: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) through its agency Malaysian Foundation for Innovation (YIM) has taken another step to boost students' interest in science and mathematics through a robotic-based learning method.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said the programme called MSI16085 Project – Application of Robotic and Students Achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (Steam) was also designed to inculcate 21st century skills among the students.

The project was under the Mosti Social Innovation (MSI), one of the innovation branches that gives a direct positive impact to the people at the grassroots where up to 2016, a total of 34 MSI projects have been carried out in Sabah.

“The inculcation of deep interest among students in these subjects is important in order to fill the country's science, technology and innovation (STI) talent pool,” he said at the programme's closing at the Seri Sulaman Hall, here, Sunday.

At the moment, he said Malaysia's STI talent pool is not getting any bigger since less students want to take up science and mathematics.

Studies done by the Malaysia Sciences Academic two years ago showed the ratio of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics against those taking up arts remained at 40:60.

Tangau, who is also Tuaran MP, was glad

to note that YIM had taken the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) approach and collaborate with other agencies in line with the Government's effort to promote innovativeness among the people.

“This, in turn, will help improve Malaysia's standing in the Global Innovation Index.”

On another note, he expressed gratitude to the Community of Robotic Education Association (Cera) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) for the cooperation in making the programme a success.

The programme was participated by 100 students from 10 secondary schools in the district. The schools were SMK Sri Nangka, SM St John, SM St James, SMK Taman Ria, SMK Pekan Telipok, SMK Tun Fuad Stephen, SMK Badin, SMK Tamparuli, SMK Tenghilan and SMK Sg Damit.

Various activities were conducted since April this year as part of the preparation for students and teachers to take part in the robotic challenge on Sunday.

Among them were robotic module development and Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops which involved 30 facilitators comprising teachers as well as Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students.

Since May this year, three workshops were organised for students to ensure that they can learn about simple robotic programming.

During the robotic challenge on Sunday, SM St John emerged as the gold recipient in the best school category, followed by SMK Pekan Telipok and SMK Tun Fuad Stephen in second and third place, respectively.