

UMS holds discourse on science education in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Faculty of Psychology and Education recently organized a discourse entitled Sustainability of Science Education in Sabah: Aspirations, Realities and the Future.

The online discourse, among others, aims to create a platform for policy makers, researchers, academics, industry representatives, educators, corporate bodies and the community to share opinions as well as hopes and strategies in addressing science education issues in Sabah.

It is also to bring together the perspectives of various stakeholders to list the methods, recommendations and strategies that are suitable to be put forward as a science education policy paper in the state.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Chm Ts Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin when officiating the program said that science and technology have proven to be able to be the catalyst to the development of the whole country, including Sabah.

Therefore, science education should be strengthened in line with the policy of strengthening science education initiatives outlined in the Malaysia Education Development Plan 2013-2025, which is to ensure that students are equipped with relevant skills in facing competitive global challenges, he said.

Dr Taufiq pointed out that the empowerment of the science teaching and learning process in the classroom needs to be enhanced in order to produce quality students who in turn will become human capital and a competitive workforce in facing the challenges of the current global economy.

Earlier, the Faculty's Dean Associate Professor, Dr Sabariah Sharif in her welcoming speech said science education in Sabah is currently facing unique challenges according to the local context.

Therefore, science lecturers are unanimous in their opinion

that the implementation of this discourse program can act as an effective medium and platform in gathering perspectives from various parties on the challenges and proposals that will outline guidelines for the empowerment of science education in the state, she said.

"It is hoped that this discourse is able to act as a smart partnership platform that brings together various suggestions raised. At the same time, it is also able to create a network of cooperation between stakeholders in Sabah," Dr Sabariah who is also the organiser of the event said.

Held online, the discourse featured personalities and experts in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the delivery of three keynote speeches. Senior Deputy Director, Curriculum Development Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE), Dr. Latip Muhammad delivered a keynote address on the Aspiration, Reality and Future of Science Education.

The chairman of the National STEM Association, Professor Datuk Dr Noraini Idris, delivered the keynote address on the STEM Education Challenge while Professor Dr Lilla Hallm from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) delivered the keynote address entitled STEM Career Choice: What did the students say?

The inaugural program also saw four roundtable discussion sessions involving 29 panel members from various organizations including MOE and Sabah State Education Department officials, teachers, students, industry representatives and the community.

The discussion explored the issue of marketability of Science graduates in Sabah, the issue of Science Teacher Education in Sabah, the scenario of Curriculum and School Climate in Science Education in Sabah as well as delved into Family and Community Support in Science Education in Sabah.