

STEM education vital for students to face global challenges: UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Stem) education is vital in equipping students, especially Sabahans in general, in facing global challenges. Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said developed countries are dedicated on Stem education as it encompasses every aspect of life and contributes to the country's economic progress.

"The country needs students equipped with Stem knowledge and skills to maintain the country's global competitiveness.

"Thus, awareness on the importance of Stem has led to major changes in the national education system with many transitions made in the process of introducing Stem at the school level to ensure the education system is on par with global needs,"

He said this when officiating at the STEM4ALL@SABAH Online Competition Programme held in conjunction with the State-level National Science Week at the Chancellery Hall.

On the programme, Taufiq said it aims to produce innovative and creative individuals.

"In line with the "MySTEM During Pandemic Covid-19", participants need to present clearly and effectively how to produce innovations to deal with the Covid-19 through short writings and presentations recorded and uploaded to Youtube.

"The goal targeted through this programme is to encourage students to face challenges, throw in and explore new ideas, solve various problems and overcome technical difficulties.

"In addition, the promotion of Stem through this programme will encourage students to gather knowledge on science and technology while at the same time, instil curiosity and creativity to drive innovation," he said.

Taufiq hoped that various Stem programmes will continue to be organised so as to increase the level of understanding, interest and dissemination of Stem-related information.

The online programme, from Aug 20 to Oct 30, also involved a series of online Webinars for mentors and participants.

Also present at the launching were Sabah State Education Department representative Rosaineh Suhaibul and Malaysian Meteorological Department representative Ainolwady Idris who is also the program's secretary.