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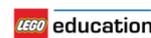
PRIVATE AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN ROBOTICS TO REPRESENT MALAYSIA AT WORLD ROBOT OLYMPIAD 2019 IN HUNGARY.

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 September 2019 – With the development of many disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation, many activities that workers carry out today have the potential to be automated. This may cause considerable anxiety on the future of jobs but as the late co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs once said, “Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat.” Facing these growing technological trends, many advanced economies around the world have taken steps to innovate on the workforce and education system.

The National Robotics Open Competition (NROC), jointly organised by Sasbadi Holdings Berhad and the Ministry of Education Malaysia since 2016, is a robotics competition platform opened to private and international schools in Malaysia. Using robotics as a learning tool, this hands-on and experiential learning platform aims to nurture young minds interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. **This year, more than 70 teams consisting of 200 students participated in the competition, which was held on 28th September at UCSI University in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.**

Based on this year’s competition theme, **Smart Cities**, students are required to research and understand the concept of Internet of Things (IoT) and its role in smart city operations. Students are then challenged in teams to develop robotic solutions to improve energy saving, traffic, and public transport system in smart cities.

Present at the closing ceremony was **YBhg. Dr. Zurina binti Marzuki, Principal Assistant Director, Private Education Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia** representing **Datin Sri Hajah Nor Zamani binti Abdol Hamid, Director of Private Education Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia**. She said, *“Problem-based learning has been central to this competition. And I am glad that this year’s theme, Smart Cities, challenges our student’s ability to understand how the Internet of Things (IoT) enables physical devices to connect to each other and exchange data.*



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With this concept, they are exposed to designing and solving real world problems that are current and apt for their generation.”

She added, “As Malaysia prepares itself for the challenges and opportunities that Industrial Revolution 4.0 brings and will bring, I am certain that the knowledge and skills they’ve learned throughout this competition will set them ahead into the future.”

Each team consisted of 2 to 3 students and a teacher as a mentor who participated in one of three categories: **Regular**, **WeDo Regular** or **Green City**. In the **Regular category**, Primary School students (ages 7 to 12) are challenged to build and programme a self-driving taxi; Lower Secondary students (ages 13 to 15) focus on smart lightings; and Upper Secondary students (ages 16 to 19) are challenged to create and program a robot that installs new wireless node devices. The teams are evaluated in terms of practicality and creativity in using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology on a table-top playing field.

Both the **WeDo Regular** and **Green City** categories are new categories that were introduced in this year’s NROC. In the WeDo Regular category, teams from ages 7 to 9 are required to programme the journey of a driverless school bus with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0. Opened to teams ages 10 to 14, the Green City category requires students ages 10 to 14 to program an autonomous robot that acts as a trash collector and manages sources of renewable energy.

Together with the national winning teams of the National Robotics Competition Finals (opened to national schools) which was organised from 21st to 23rd September, the winning teams of the NROC will represent Malaysia at the World Robot Olympiad 2019 at Győr, Hungary to be held from 8th to 10th November 2019. This competition is organised by The Ministry of Education Malaysia with Sasbadi Holdings Berhad, venue sponsored by UCSI University and powered by LEGO® Education.



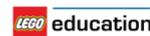
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ABOUT THE ORGANISER - SASBADI HOLDINGS BERHAD

Sasbadi Holdings Berhad is a Malaysian-listed company that specialises in providing education solutions. Founded in 1985, the company has grown over the years from producing quality educational books and materials to a leading education solutions provider through its diverse offerings. This includes academic and non-academic educational materials, digital and technology-enabled products, applied learning tools, and a network marketing business.

The Group anchors its business on five core pillars, namely Creating Contents, Developing Technologies, Nurturing Skills, Enriching Life and Forging Connections. Recognising the importance of 21st Century learning, Sasbadi has been championing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and working closely with key partners such as the Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia and Lego Education through robotics for schools. For more information, please visit <http://www.sasbadiholdings.com/>

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