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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEYOND CODING: STUDENTS SHOWCASED THEIR ABILITIES TO SOLVE REAL WORLD PROBLEMS USING ROBOTICS.

PERAK, 27 August 2019 – In 19th century when iRobot was founded, its CEO Colin Angle once said, “People are fascinated by robots because they’re machines that can mimic life.” Fast forward to present day, the world has seen the robotics industry grow in leaps and bounds, and even fast becoming a necessary skill in education towards the 21st century.

The National Robotics Competition (NRC), jointly organised annually by Sasbadi Holdings Berhad and the Ministry of Education Malaysia since 2005, is a platform that nurtures young minds using hands-on and fun learning experiences through robotics. This competition is also aligned to the Ministry’s aim to spur more students’ interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. **This year, the Selangor state level competition saw more than 300 teams consisting of 600 students across primary and secondary schools throughout the state participated, which was held from 26th to 27th August at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Sultan Azlan Shah Campus, Tanjung Malim.**

This year’s theme, **Smart Cities**, challenges students’ ability to understand how the Internet of Things (IoT) enables physical devices to connect to each other and exchange data to make cities more sustainable and operate more efficiently. Based on their understanding of this concept, students are then challenged to develop solutions centred around smart city operations such as energy saving, safer traffic, and public transport system improvements.

These challenges allow the participants, ages 7 to 19 years old, to test their critical thinking, creativity and problem solving abilities on real world problems, while building on their teamwork, collaboration and communication skills.



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Present at the closing ceremony was the **Deputy Director of Selangor State Education Department, YBhg. Muhamad Radzi Bin Abdullah**. He said, *“Our nation is currently at an interesting phase whereby we are advancing towards a knowledge-based economy in the 21st century. This development has impacted many aspects, especially in preparing our young generation to become a workforce that are capable of logical thinking, inventing and using technology to solve problems creatively and innovatively to drive the nation’s economic growth.”*

Each team participated in one of six categories: **Regular Pro, Regular Rookie** (teams who are participating in NRC for the first time), **Open, WeDo Regular, NRC Football** or **STEM Invention & Innovation**. In the Regular Pro and Rookie category, Primary School students (7 to 12 years old) are challenged to build and programme a self-driving taxi; Lower Secondary students (13 to 15 years old) focus on smart lightings; and Upper Secondary students (16 to 19 years old) are challenged to create and programme 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.

In the Open category (opened to Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary School students), teams are challenged to create robotics solutions in the areas of governance, the workplace and education, then present their project to a group of judges.

In a new category introduced last year, WeDo Regular category requires teams from 7 to 9 years old to program the journey of a driverless school bus with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0. The NRC Football category is a robotics football challenge whereby teams programmed 2 autonomous robots (1 goalkeeper and 1 shooter) and competed against each other. Last but not least, students from 10 to 14 years old in the STEM Invention & Innovation category are challenged to build a motorised machine to climb and get a ball at the top of a pole.

The NRC state level competitions is organised in 13 states and 3 federal territories from July to September 2019. The winning teams will then compete at the NRC Finals 2019 at AIMST University, Bedong Kedah on 20th to 22nd September 2019. This competition is powered by LEGO® Education. For more information about the competition, please visit <http://nrc.sasbadi.com>



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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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