

EMPOWERING MALAYSIAN STUDENTS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: THE STUDENT SUMMIT 2023

Kuala Lumpur: The Citi Foundation and Teach For Malaysia (TFM)'s Student Summit brought together 90 participating students at Menara Citibank. This first student-led event was co-organised by a committee of 18 students from diverse regions of Malaysia. The 18 student committee members were guided through organising the Summit by 12 mentors from Citi Malaysia.

Datuk Yvonne Chia, Teach For Malaysia Trustee, shared, "Student Leadership has been a core part of Teach For Malaysia's work and vision since we first started the Fellowship programme in 2012. The Student Summit aims to empower and amplify student voices to inspire quality education for all students as part of the larger Building Young Leaders Today for Tomorrow programme (BUILD). We are deeply grateful to the Citi Foundation for generously supporting TFM's student leadership development efforts and the amazing dedication shown by the Citi mentors."

Vikram Singh, CEO of Citi Malaysia, shared, "Students are our leaders of tomorrow, and we are delighted to have partnered with TFM to host the Student Summit at our office building. Through the Citi Foundation, our country's social responsibility efforts focus on improving the lives of people in low-income communities. We continuously invest in initiatives to increase financial inclusion, create job opportunities for youth and develop young entrepreneurship in the country. The summit has been an incredible platform for students to showcase their potential, to know that they are heard, and to drive the importance of upholding student voice."

Chan Soon Seng, CEO of Teach For Malaysia, also shared, "Teach For Malaysia aspires that by 2030, there will be significantly more youths across the country driving locally-led community solutions, upholding their civic responsibility, with more preparation to pursue their desired career pathways. Students are always pressured to know what they want to be, but we tend to forget that it is important for students to care about the world and to know what kind of world they want. Then, only they can figure out how to create a different world from the curiosity that has been instilled within them. "

The Student Summit featured workshops that provided participants with the knowledge and motivation they needed to be advocates for change. The first workshop, titled "What are the enablers of Student Voice?" inspired students to articulate the issues affecting their education and why they should voice their concerns. Students presented their aspirations for a national platform to represent their voices and to address issues of concern to students nationwide in the second workshop.

Students then engaged in a student-adult dialogue titled "Centering Student Voice to Enhance Education Equity" where they delved deeper into the significance of their voices in shaping the future of education.

"A conducive learning environment is important where it consists of two-way communication where the teacher and the student can engage instead of the normal chalk-and-talk method. The number of students in the classroom also plays a huge role in making us, the students, receive the knowledge in a proper manner. MCO has left a big impact on our lives. Some of us may experience difficulties catching up with some topics due to a bad internet connection. So, we hope teachers will not give up on us because we are also struggling to level up ourselves." shared Alif, one of the student panellists.

Citi Foundation and Teach For Malaysia are committed to empowering students to play an active role in shaping the future of education. In 2023, Citi Foundation and Teach For Malaysia embarked on a journey to activate an ecosystem of support for 3300 students in Sarawak to create change in their communities. The partnership also impacted 22 new teachers under the Teach For Malaysia Fellowship programme who were trained in developing student leadership in the classroom. These efforts culminated in the Student Summit. Following the Student Summit, Teach For Malaysia hopes to see students setting up their student councils in their schools to represent students' voices in their school's decision-making process.

Appendix



From left: Sawittri Charun (Moderator - Research, Impact & Design Manager of Teach For Malaysia), Nur' Mazira binti Abdul Zaim, Isaac Ningkan, Vikram Singh (CEO of Citi Malaysia), Chan Soon Seng (CEO of Teach For Malaysia), Alif Ardian Bin Norman, Eshikaman Kaur.



Nur Fatini Alya, Student Summit 2023 Committee, facilitated the workshop 'What are the enablers of Student Voice?'

Note to editor:

Who we are:

Teach For Malaysia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation on a mission to give all children the opportunity to realise their potential through quality education. We partner with the Ministry of Education to reach high-need public schools. We are one of the 61 partners of the prestigious global education network Teach For All.

Since 2012, we have been building a transformational movement in the education system by placing the country's most promising graduates and young professionals as full-time teachers in some of Malaysia's most high-need schools to combat education inequity through our flagship leadership development programme called the Fellowship. In 2020, we expanded our work as the implementation partner of the 2-year nationwide Program Duta Guru (PDG), training and coaching in-service public school STEM teachers.

Teach For Malaysia is a 2022 Merdeka Award Recipient under the Education & Community Category. The Merdeka Award is Malaysia's premier award for excellence founded by PETRONAS, ExxonMobil and Shell in 2007.

Since our launch in 2012, we are a movement of 1481 TFM Fellows, Program Duta Guru teachers and Alumni have impacted 332,337 students in 946 schools nationwide.

Learn more about our work: read our [10th Anniversary Impact Report](#)

About Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyse job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant communities. The Citi Foundation's "more than philanthropy" approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfil our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation.

For more information, please contact:

Felicia Tan

Marketing Manager

Teach For Malaysia

Tel: +6017 3711 571

Email: felicia.tan@teachformalaysia.org

Website: www.teachformalaysia.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/teachformsia>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/teachformalaysia>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/teachformsia/>

- End of document -