



FACEBOOK

## **FACEBOOK MALAYSIA PARTNERS TEACH FOR MALAYSIA TO BUILD DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS AMONG YOUTHS**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 15 OCTOBER 2020:** Facebook Malaysia, in partnership with Teach For Malaysia (TFM), and endorsed by the Ministry of Education Malaysia, launched [We Think Digital](#), a nationwide digital literacy program that aims to develop skills that enable Malaysians to create a positive and safe culture online.

We Think Digital is a global digital literacy program, with resources aimed at helping people think critically and share thoughtfully online. The program's learning resources are designed to help people whether they're new to the Internet or a digital native who wants to learn more or improve their digital skills. Facebook and its partners from government, civil society groups, and communities aim to conduct training sessions for youths, students, and teachers through this program in Malaysia.

This launch follows the successful pilot programme in partnership with TFM, where 795 students from across six different schools nationwide have been trained virtually to date. These schools are located in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Sarawak and Sabah. Through this continued partnership, Facebook Malaysia and TFM aim to train 2,500 students across the country by April, 2021.

“Malaysia has one of the fastest growing internet populations and with the growing number of new internet users, developing skills around digital literacy and digital citizenship is vital to creating a positive and safe culture on the internet. We are very happy to be partnering with Teach For Malaysia, to reach youths at the grassroots and develop a generation of responsible digital citizens. Ultimately, nothing is more important to us than making sure that we create a safe, informed, inclusive and respectful community on Facebook,” said Nicole Tan, Country Director of Facebook Malaysia.

In order to get better insights on how equipped Malaysians are when it comes to digital skills and their awareness of online safety, Facebook Malaysia commissioned market researcher, YouGov to conduct a survey. The survey found that Malaysians are generally knowledgeable in password security measurement but only 42% of people surveyed in Malaysia are aware of Two Factor Authentication or 2FA – which is an extra layer of protection used to ensure the security of online accounts beyond just a username and password.

When it comes to critical thinking skills when navigating the digital world, 59% of people surveyed who shared an online article checked if they were from a reputable organization and only 29% of people surveyed would report false news and information when they encountered it.

“Most active internet users in Malaysia are young people. However, many lack the critical thinking skills necessary to participate safely and responsibly online. TFM is excited to be partnering with Facebook to launch the We Think Digital program in Malaysia, providing an opportunity for all students in Malaysia to develop basic digital literacy and citizenship skills to thrive in the digital 21st century world,” said Chan Soon Seng, CEO of Teach For Malaysia.

Facebook collaborates with experts, academics and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Asia Pacific to create various modules as a source of learning in this program. In Malaysia, topics that will be covered include privacy, safety, security, digital discourse and knowing your digital footprint, organised into four modules:

- **What is the internet?** Introduction: explains how the Internet and social media work, and the importance of digital citizenship
- **Me in the online world:** learning to ensure safety and security online and managing our digital footprint, as well as protecting your digital identity
- **Be a critical thinker:** learning to discern different types of information, and develop critical thinking and empathy when communicating online. Also get tips to spot false information
- **Me as a digital citizen:** learning the rights and responsibilities of digital citizenship, such as digital discourse, as well as Internet concepts like accepting difference, netiquette, being a creator, copyright and plagiarism

“If you ask me why I’m so excited to get my kids to join the *We Think Digital* workshop from Facebook I would say, social media is already a big part of their life and they are now the real digital citizen. So they should be aware of what is actually digital citizenship. So, and this is actually a really good learning opportunity for my students for them to learn how to be a good digital citizen. So I want them to really be thoughtful, be mindful, be critical.” said Chee Hoo, a We Think Digital trainer.

“Facebook has been investing in developing safety resources and tools for users of all ages to think critically and share thoughtfully online. We are committed to partner with industry stakeholders, advocates and communities to nurture responsible digital citizens by creating awareness and taking the initiatives to support positive communities online and offline,” Nicole added.

For more information on We Think Digital and the available learning modules, please refer to the website here: <https://wethinkdigital.fb.com/my>.



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## **About Teach For Malaysia**

Teach For Malaysia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation on a mission to provide all children in Malaysia the opportunity to attain an excellent education. We believe that a child's education and future should not be determined by their circumstances in life – so we recruit our country's rising generation of leaders to be part of the solution to the challenges faced by our communities today.

We partner with the Ministry of Education to recruit outstanding graduates and young professionals to become full-time teachers in high-need schools through our highly selective two-year Fellowship programme. We are proud to be one of over 50 partners in the global education network, Teach For All.

For more information, please visit [www.teachformalaysia.org](http://www.teachformalaysia.org).