

EMPOWERING STUDENTS ACROSS MALAYSIA: TEACH FOR MALAYSIA FELLOWS PRESENT SOCIAL INNOVATIONS TO ADDRESS EDUCATION INEQUITY

KUCHING – Teach For Malaysia (TFM) is proud to announce the 10th edition of its Dragons' Den, where Fellows and Alumni present their social innovation projects aimed at bridging education inequity. This year's event holds special significance, with the entire 2023 Cohort of TFM Fellows stationed in Sarawak, collaborating closely with local schools and communities in Serian and Padawan to address regional educational challenges under the theme: "Breathing collective solutions into the Education Landscape of Serian and Padawan."



Dragons' Den offers Fellows the opportunity to pitch their ideas to a panel of "Dragons," key players from Sarawak's education, innovation, and corporate sustainability sectors. This year's Dragons include Hajah Siti Aisah Bt. Adenan (Senior Vice President of Corporate Services, Sarawak Energy Berhad), Khairool Adzellan Aman (Ecosystem Development & Digital Innovation Manager, Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation), and Dr Noratikah binti Mohamad Ashari (Deputy Dean, Industry and Community Engagement, UNIMAS), among others.

Inspired by the UK reality show, Dragons' Den allows Fellows to gain valuable feedback, mentorship, and potentially secure funding or in-kind support. Their initiatives aim to bridge educational gaps in underserved communities, drawing on the Fellows' experience from working on the ground in schools.

Sawitri Charun, Head of Fellowship at Teach For Malaysia, remarked, "As we celebrate the 10th edition of Dragons' Den, it's incredibly inspiring to see the growth of our Fellows and the

innovative solutions they are presenting. These projects are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Fellows, who are not only addressing education inequity but also empowering communities to be part of the change. Their passion and commitment to transforming education in Malaysia, especially in underserved areas like Serian and Padawan, gives me hope for a future where every child can thrive. We are proud to support them in turning their ideas into meaningful, sustainable impact.”



Aziz Abdul Rahim, Project Integration Manager of ConocoPhillips Malaysia, and one of this year’s Dragons, shared his thoughts on the importance of the initiatives presented:

“As a Dragon, it’s inspiring to see the passion and dedication these Fellows bring to tackling education inequity. The innovative solutions presented today reflect their deep understanding of the challenges faced by underserved communities. Beyond the pitches, we are excited to explore opportunities to further support these impactful initiatives and drive sustainable change in the education landscape.”

Past Fellows have successfully launched impactful social enterprises from similar initiatives. Examples include ARUS Academy, which focuses on STEM and Maker education, Closing the Gap, and Project ID, both leadership-focused, and Edvolution Enterprise, which supports teacher and district officer training.

Vaishnavi, one of the Fellows who presented her initiative, shared a reflection on her Dragons’ Den experience:

"My pitching experience was both exciting and deeply emotional. When I stood before the Dragons, I wasn’t pitching for myself—I was pitching for my students. The initiative is closely tied to the urgent needs of the children in my school.

While this may seem like a small initiative, my vision is much bigger. I dream of a future where every school in Malaysia, primary and secondary, has its own book club. Through these clubs, students can engage with books, develop their skills, and most importantly, find their voices."



Teach For Malaysia remains committed to working alongside passionate individuals and communities to bring positive, sustainable change to the Malaysian education system, starting with its most vulnerable populations.

For more information on how to get involved or support Teach For Malaysia's One Day Vision, where every child in Malaysia has the opportunity to realise their potential through quality education, visit <https://teachformalaysia.org/>.

About Teach For Malaysia

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 63 partners of the prestigious global education network, Teach For All.

Since 2012, we have been building a transformational movement in our 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, our movement of 4,377 leaders, consisting of Fellows, PDG teachers, and student leaders, has impacted over 504,835 students across the nation.

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