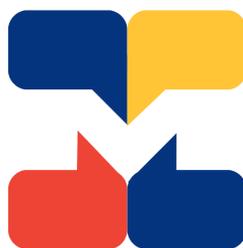


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Media Education For All



MALAYSIAN EDUCATORS TO FORM A REGISTERED SOCIETY FOR FIGHTING MISINFORMATION

10 NOVEMBER 2021 - A group of 65 teachers and lecturers have signed up to pioneer Malaysia's first-ever registered society to combat misinformation and disinformation through education.

Launched in conjunction with UNESCO's Global Media and Information Literacy Week celebration, the initiative facilitated by the award-winning Media Education For All movement aims to provide a stronger force in building critical thinkers and smarter media consumers through a systematic and sustainable strategy: empowering educators to empower their students.

At the time of writing, some 65 teachers and lecturers nationwide have volunteered to join the society at <https://arus.cc/persatuanlmm> and some even stepped up to take the lead.

"We welcome all teachers and lecturers who are really passionate about educating our young generation with media literacy skills to register soon. Our first Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on 20th November 2021 and they will get a chance to give input into the historic formation and the constitution of this organisation," said David Chak, Arus Academy co-founder and Media Education For All project lead.

Associate Professor Dr Sabariah Mohamed Salleh, a media and information literacy expert at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, lauds the move.

“There is no better time than now to have a formal body to advance the media and information literacy agenda in the country. Our collective voice and power as educators will pave the way for greater awareness and action to raise critical thinkers among the young generation,” said Dr Sabariah, who has been working with UNESCO on media and information literacy initiatives in the region.

Media Education For All was named the Best News Literacy Project in the Asian Digital Media Awards 2021, with strategic plans that have seen over 4,000 local educators trained in media and information literacy skills this year alone – using a free online course that is contextualised to the Malaysian landscape and developed by homegrown educators and media professionals.

Its recently-concluded Media Education Academy Challenge saw 11 educators taking home RM10,000 in cash prizes for innovation in education by developing lessons that integrate media and information literacy into their subjects.

Mah Zhi Jian, who teaches in SJKC Yeang Cheang, Kedah, was among the winners.

He designed a lesson using the news of national paralympic athlete Muhammad Ziyad Zolkefli being disqualified at the Tokyo 2021 Paralympic Games. Students were asked to observe tweets and comments posted about the story, and to discuss the ethical issues surrounding such online conversations.

“The inspiration of this lesson was from my own reaction as well as how other people reacted towards Ziyad’s incident. It was so convenient for us readers to over-react, be blinded by biased information and subsequently publicly criticize others before verifying the truth. We really need to be critical about the information that we receive and have wisdom in determining its validity, so that we do not become someone who misuse social media to spread fake news,” said Mah.

Secondary school teacher Nur Wanira bt Mohd Basri added that her students, being avid users of the media, inspired her to develop a fun and creative lesson integrating media and information literacy.

At the end of the lesson, students would create mnemonic devices to help others judge between real and false news online.

“It is crucial for students to be well-equipped with media literacy skills, develop critical thinking skills in judging news, and build a habit of relying on credible news sources,” said Nur Wanira from Sekolah Menengah Sains Kepala Batas, Penang.

Educators can now access the newly launched resource bank featuring the best collection of lesson plans and materials submitted by contestants, which the Media Education For All organisers hope will inspire educators to see that critical thinking skills can be taught creatively and easily.

All Media Education For All resources are made available to the public for free at <https://arus.cc/MEA>.

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About Arus Academy:

Arus Academy empowers today's problem-solvers through engaging and exciting experiential learning adventures that inspire them to create a better future for all.

Our programs cover design thinking, programming and coding, teacher training, financial literacy and advocacy through education.

Since we started operations in 2014, we focus on empowering students from all backgrounds, especially those from underprivileged families or high need schools. We provide opportunities for them to improve their life trajectory and equip them with new competencies to become problem solvers in the 21st century.

For more information please visit www.arusacademy.org.my.

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About The Fourth:

The Fourth is an independent collective of award-winning investigative journalists that uses multimedia documentaries and impact campaigns to champion social justice causes.

Aside from its investigative and impact work, The Fourth also provides impact media training and consultancy for organisations that are looking to increase their social impact.

For more information, go to facebook.com/TheFourth.

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