

El Gamillo Named as MDEC's #CikguJuaraDigital 2021 Winner

- *El Gamillo bin Habibun Tan from Terengganu announced as winner in this year's edition; earning his school RM15,000 worth of equipment and facilities*
- *#CikguJuaraDigital is a programme held under the ambit of MDEC's #SayaDigital initiative to promote and enable digital technologies in education as well as to facilitate home-based teaching and learning method (PdPR) during the pandemic*

CYBERJAYA, 8 JUNE 2021: El Gamillo bin Habibun Tan, a teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Jambu Bongkok, Marang, Terengganu, has been named the winner of the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation's (MDEC) #CikguJuaraDigital 2021 (#CJD21) programme and in the process, winning his school RM15,000 worth of learning equipment and facility fittings as well as earning himself a spot on MDEC's #CJD Professional Development Programme.

Established in 2019, #CikguJuaraDigital (#CJD) is a programme held under the ambit of MDEC's #SayaDigital programme via its #mydigitalmaker initiative, in search of teachers who are breaking barriers and revolutionising education through technology in Malaysia. The goal of the programme is to level up digitally-savvy teachers to become *Cikgu Juara Digital* (Champion Digital Teachers), to inspire and coach other teachers in their respective local communities.

#mydigitalmaker is a joint public-private-academia initiative that aims to create a nation of digital makers by transforming Malaysian youth from digital users to digital producers.

Hailing from Muar, Johor, the 41-year old is a Bahasa Malaysia and music teacher and has been an educator for the past 17 years. He is also a certified Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert and Apple Certified Teacher. El Gamillo has well over 60 videos on his YouTube Channel on topics ranging from home-based learning (PdPR) to tutorials covering a wide range of essential digital skills.

"I would like to express my gratitude to MDEC for recognising our efforts and I take great pride at winning #CJD21. This is a perfect opportunity and platform to upskill educators in utilising digital technologies to further enhance our methods and delivery of teaching and learning, especially crucial during this challenging pandemic period.

"I would like to urge my fellow educators to leverage on the digital platform to become agents of change and transformation in education. The benefits are immense and I will strive to ensure to do my part in inspiring the next wave of digital educators in Malaysia," said El Gamillo.

El Gamillo has well over 5,000 followers on his social media accounts as well as a website (www.cikguel.com) which explores the field of technology and education.

"This year's #CJD has really upped the ante and we have seen a diverse range of entrants, each with an unique story to tell and all are digital leaders in their own right. This augurs well with our push to enable equitable digital opportunities, transforming us towards Malaysia 5.0, a nation deeply integrated with technology that empowers inclusivity, sustainability and shared prosperity," said Dr Sumitra Nair, Vice President & Head of Digital Skills and Jobs, MDEC.

The #CJD programme provides a professional development programme for the selected applicants which include digital tech related certification courses and participation in accelerator labs and bootcamps via partnerships with a wide range of technology partners. The #CJD teachers will also be offered communication and training on pitching skills. They will subsequently pay-it-forward by advocating the infusion of digital technology in education and conducting training sessions for other teachers in their respective districts.

In 2019, five teachers were identified as #CJD and 21 teachers were added in 2020. This year, more than 180 applications were received in which a top 30 were shortlisted with El Gamillo ending up as the eventual winner. MDEC aims to identify and level-up two #CJD teachers in each of the 250 education districts in the country by 2025, totalling up to 500 #CJD teachers nationwide.

Amongst the top 30 #CJD includes Nadia Richard, a Kadazan Dusun teacher at SMK Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. She is a Physics and Science teacher at the school and has been teaching for the past 13 years. Nadia is very active in the Professional Learning Community (PLC) STEM programme and she is also a Key Instructor (Tenaga Pengajar Utama, TPU) for IBSE (Inquiry-Based Science Education).

Selvarani Uthirakumaran, another front runner of the competition, brings yet another interesting story to #CJD. Currently teaching at SJKT Ladang Sungai Kruit, Sungkai, Perak, the school is located some 80km away from Ipoh with only 16 students. She has tapped onto online platforms and digital methods to ensure better and more attractive delivery of her classes. Selvarani is also an active contributor as jury at several national level competitions such as Cabaran Kreatif STEAM 2020, Weastronauts - Golden Educational PBL Project and International Digital Innovation and Invention Challenge.

#CJD is open to all teachers nationwide who are passionate about education transformation. They must be active advocates of digital innovation and creativity, and must also demonstrate effective use of digital technologies and platforms in their teaching and learning activities. They must also be active at tech-related programmes at national and international levels.

Another notable entrant to #CJD would be Yu Kok Hui, a teacher at SMK Skudai, Johor. Along with seven other teachers, Yu is the Founder of Pendidik Digital MY, a teaching community that advocates technology in Teaching & Learning. His YouTube channel has well over 27,000 subscribers and Yu is also the 'wakelet and kahoot!' ambassador for 2020.

Access and geographical barriers have been a recurring issue for remote schools and one teacher who has mitigated this is Muhammad Nur Firdaus Narawi, who teaches at SK Penghulu Imban in Dalat, Sibu, Sarawak. The school is remotely located 80km from Sibu and has less than 300 students with almost 99 percent of students hailing from Rumah Panjang (traditional longhouses) settlers nearby. Firdaus has developed a web-based education for science subjects to improve teaching and learning and it has well over 15,000 users.

#CJD is part of MDEC's #mydigitalmaker movement initiative under its #SayaDigital programme, a flagship digital awareness initiative with a focus on creating awareness and empowering the rakyat – especially those from vulnerable socioeconomic groups – to embrace digitalisation, in line with the goals of the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDIGITAL) and Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.

#END#

About Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is the agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia leading the nation's digital transformation for 25 years. MDEC's agenda is **Malaysia 5.0**, enabling a nation deeply integrated with technology, providing equitable digital opportunities to the people and businesses.

In order to achieve this, we will focus on four key thrust lead DIGITAL thrusts, **New skills, Adoption, Disruptors and Investments**. This forms the basis of our NADI Digital brand campaign, that will drive our core programmes for the rakyat, business and investors. MDEC's aim is for Malaysia to become a globally competitive digital nation, anchored on inclusivity, sustainability and shared prosperity, firmly establishing Malaysia as the Heart of Digital ASEAN.

#Malaysia5.0 #NadiDigital #SayaDigital #MHODA #MyMDEC

To find out more about MDEC's Digital Economy initiatives, please visit us at www.mdec.my or follow us on: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MyMDEC/> Twitter: @mymdec

For media queries, kindly contact:

Dashika Gnaneswaran - dashika.gnaneswaran@mdec.com.my
Simon Yap – simon.yap@mdec.com.my