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Inspiring Young Creators Through the Scratch Workshop

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Scratch workshop was organised by the Multimedia Unit of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) at the University of Malaya. This workshop is aimed to inspire creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork among students. This year, we proudly hosted the Scratch Workshop for primary school children in the Hulu Langat district, an initiative designed to introduce young minds to the exciting world of programming. However, this year is quite special compared to the previous years as this is the first year that we had organised a host school and the host invited four other schools to join too. In the past, we had only worked with one school at a time for the workshop.

We were delighted to have students from five different schools in Hulu Langat district to join us for this enriching experience. The schools consisted of SK Taming Jaya who was the host school, followed by SK Bandar Tun Hussein Onn, SK Bandar Tun Hussein Onn 2, SK Taman Cuepacs and SK Saujana Impian 2. Each school sent four enthusiastic students and two dedicated teachers, except for the host having 25 students (as in the picture above). Total 41 young learners and their mentors ready to embark on a journey of discovery through coding.

Hands-On Learning Experience

The Scratch Workshop was led by Madam Mas Idayu, who expertly guided the students through hands-on activities designed to make programming accessible and enjoyable with the assistance of other lecturers (Professor Ainuddin Wahid, Associate Professor Dr Nor Aniza, Dr Nurul Fazmidar and Madam Nornazlita). Participants learned to create their own interactive stories and games using Scratch, a visual programming language that allows users to drag and drop code blocks to bring their ideas to life.

Under the mentorship of five lecturers from the University of Malaya, students engaged in hands-on projects, sharing ideas and troubleshooting together. This hands-on approach not only made learning fun but also fostered teamwork and communication skills among the students. The excitement in the room was high as they explored the possibilities of programming.

Building Critical Skills for the Future

The primary goal of this workshop was to expose students to the fundamentals of programming, an essential skill in today's digital world. By learning how to code in Scratch, students developed critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. They gained a better understanding of how technology works, which can inspire them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Moreover, this initiative aligns with our commitment to contributing to society by empowering the next generation with digital literacy. As technology continues to evolve, equipping young minds with programming skills will enable them to navigate and shape the future.

A Visit from Community Leaders

The workshop concluded with a special visit from Mr Ahmad Alfian bin Ahmad Fauzi, the SISC + TVET Officer from the Hulu Langat District Education Office in Selangor. His presence emphasized the importance of initiatives like this in fostering educational growth within the community. Mr Ahmad Alfian expressed his support for our efforts in encouraging students to explore programming, reinforcing the value of such workshops in today's educational environment.

Lecturers from FCSIT, teachers from SK Taming Jaya and Mr Ahmad Alfian bin Ahmad Fauzi from the Hulu Langat District Education Office in Selangor

To celebrate the students' achievements, a certificate-giving ceremony was held, recognizing their participation and hard work throughout the workshop. This moment

was not only a chance to reward their efforts but also to inspire them to continue exploring the world of programming and technology.

A Bright Future Awaits

The Scratch Workshop was a resounding success, bringing together students and educators to share knowledge and creativity. We are proud to have played a role in inspiring young minds to explore programming and technology. We believe that by introducing children to these skills at an early age, we can empower them to become innovative thinkers and problem solvers.

As we look forward to next year's workshop, we are happy to contribute to our young generation and continue fostering a love for technology and programming among our youth. Together, we can inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders. We would like to bid a huge thank you to all the participating schools, students, and teachers for making this workshop a memorable experience. We are excited to see how these young coders will use their newfound skills in the future!