

Starting at a Tender Age

WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION

reported by



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On a bright sunny Sunday (March 12, 2017), Sekolah Kebangsaan Seneng in Bachok, Kelantan, launched the Fun Learning Toy Library (FLTL) at its pre-school class. Officiating at the ceremony was Tuan Hj. Sepian Mohd Nor, representing the Kelantan Education Department, witnessed by Tuan Nik Suwardi Nik Mat (Bachok State Education Department), Prof. Ir. Dr Sha'ri Yusof (Dean of UTM Razak School), Prof. Emeritus Ir. Dato' Dr Zainai Mohamed (Adopt A Kampung Advisor, also representing Kelantan Islamic Religious Council), the school principal, teachers and 75 parents. IEM Women Engineers (WE) Section Committee to Kelantan was represented by Ir. Hj. Rosnelawati and project leader Dr Habibah @ Norehan Haron, who also represented Srikandi84 (main financial contributor for the FLTL project) and Adopt A Kampung team.

Adopt A Kampung is the university social responsibility (USR) team from UTM Razak School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.

The 12 members of Adopt A Kampung and IEM representatives had arrived earlier and took almost two days to set-up, paint and organise the class to integrate the FLTL. Among them were four mechanical and electrical engineering lecturers, two management lecturers and five engineering students.

Three women representatives of Srikandi84 flew in from Kuala Lumpur for the ceremony. The class teacher was extremely happy as she had struggled for two years to start the class from scratch; there was no budget for a pre-school teacher and facilities when instructions came for the pre-school class to be operational.

Now it is furnished with 25 sets of tables and chairs, a teacher's table, colourful book racks, cabinets, shelves, a big screen TV and four learning corners with specific themes and related toys. The teacher said: "I feel blessed. My previous efforts to make the class function like any other pre-school class, have been paid by this marvellous gift."

Previously, she brought utensils from home, used her own pocket money to tile the cement floor and to buy files/folders which were basic requirements to operate the class.

"We are fortunate to be the second school in Kelantan to have received the Fun Learning Toy Library," said the school principal. FLTL helped changed the learning environment. The expressions on the children's faces when they arrived on the morning of the first day, made us feel it's been a worthwhile effort.



Before setting up of FLTL



After setting up of the FLTL

School should be fun, especially for the learning Science and Mathematics. Learning in an environment where creativity is encouraged and understanding of the concepts are explored through curiosity, is what makes IEM WE Section participate actively in the efforts of the Adopt A Kampung team. The committee and members contributed notebook computers, books, posters and various types of toys. Common toys for urban children are luxury toys for the rural children.

These toys made them bold and daring to speak up and share their thoughts. Soft skills were also observed during the short period of interaction time.

The four themed learning corners are filled with related books and toys. Introduction to solar-powered small robots at the Science, Engineering and Technology corner triggers inquisitive minds to start to learn science at a tender age.

For more information on FLTL concepts or to contribute to the project, contact the author at habibahharon.kl@utm.my. ■