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FOUR YEARS OF SPARKING CHANGE

The Star, Malaysia



PTF has now reached more than 11,114 students nationwide. — Photos by ART CHEN, IZZRAFIQ ALIAS and LEONG WAI YEE/ The Star

FOUR YEARS OF SPARKING CHANGE

TNB's Powering The Future 4.0 school activation programme continues to build a culture of energy efficiency among youth

By MARK RYAN RAJ

MALAYSIA still generates most of its electricity from fossil fuels, primarily coal and natural gas.

Even as the country steps up its transition to renewable sources, such as solar and hydro energy, in pursuit of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, this continued reliance on fossil fuels carries a real environmental cost.

That cost is made worse by consumption habits that place unnecessary strain on the grid.

Every bit of avoidable demand translates into higher carbon emissions, adding to the toll on public health and accelerating the climate effects Malaysians are already grappling with.

Turning this around calls for more than new infrastructure, as it requires a genuine shift in mindset and behaviour around how energy is used – one that takes root early enough to shape the habits of generations to come.

This is the goal behind Powering The Future (PTF), a school activation programme jointly run by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) and Star Media Group Bhd (SMG) to build energy literacy among youth and encourage smarter, more sustainable electricity use.

Now in its fourth year, PTF 4.0 brought the programme to 2,431 primary and secondary school students across 30 schools in Putrajaya, Selangor, Melaka and Perak.

The programme falls under the Malaysia Energy Literacy Programme (MELP), a national initiative initially established by TNB that uses interactive, gamified learning modules to introduce students to renewable energy in ways designed to hold their attention and stick with them.

Secondary students were put through real-world simulations and critical-thinking exercises centred on energy-efficient practices, while younger, primary-level participants took part in more hands-on activities meant to turn abstract energy concepts into something they could see and understand.

TNB chief retail officer Datuk Kamal Arifin A. Rahman said the programme's reach has grown steadily each year since it began in 2023.

"We want to see energy efficiency becoming a part of our Malaysian culture, particularly among youth, so that we can continue to utilise our energy resources efficiently," he said.

"And, to do that, we have to start with the younger generation because the key to a brighter future starts with them."

Four editions in, PTF has now reached more than 11,114 students across 12 states – a track record that TNB and SMG hope will continue building a generation more conscious of its energy footprint, as the nation works towards its 2050 net-zero target.



Kamal Arifin (kneeling; third from right) and Putrajaya State Education Department director Nadimin Abdul Aziz (in grey blazer) interacting with students during the activities at the flagship launch event on June 30.



SK Tanjong Malim students holding up info cards during an interactive energy literacy exercise.



Students from SK Ayer Merbau in Melaka testing a wind-powered renewable energy model.



Students from SK Bandar Behrang 2020 in Perak trying out a hydro-powered model.



Students working together during their critical-thinking exercises.



Students from SK Selandar work together to complete one of their activities.

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Students from SK Tanjong Malim in Perak also organised a special dance performance to celebrate the state's launch event.



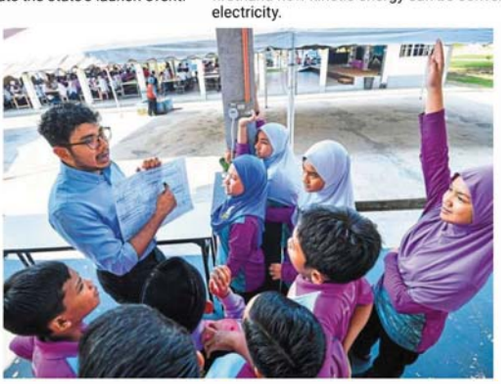
Primary students from SK Nyalas in Melaka seeing firsthand how kinetic energy can be converted into electricity.



Students from SMK Seri Bemban in Melaka happily received their goodie bags.



A primary school student attempting an energy-themed word puzzle.



A programme facilitator going through an exercise with students.



Students working together to complete one of their activities.



The goal of the home simulation exercise is to test students' ability to manage home electricity usage efficiently.



As part of a group exercise, secondary students were tasked with collecting 'appliance' cards to complete their simulated homes, prioritising energy efficiency.



Primary school students from SK Seri Mendapat, Melaka, catching up with one another after the activities.



Students from SK Putrajaya Presint 17 (1) testing out a solar-powered renewable energy model.



Secondary school students from SMK Khir Johari in Tanjong Malim, Perak, excitedly waiting for the programme to start.



Secondary students were also tasked with calculating energy usage in their simulated homes to reduce unnecessary consumption.

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