



HIGHER ED

ELECTRONICS 101 FOR
SCHOOL-LEAVERS

» PAGE 49

CELEBRATING
DIFFERENCES IN US

» PAGE 51

Essence of innovative teaching

ONE of the key purposes of tertiary education today is to generate holistic graduates who can compete globally and be ready to take on challenges brought about by the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) which is affecting the jobs sphere by creating new knowledge and skills requirement.

Hence, the student experience at higher education institutions must facilitate the opportunity to learn in innovative ways that are engaging, enabling undergraduates to reach their full potential and develop skills that will help them thrive in the future.

At the Education Minister's Special Award Ceremony: Innovative Curriculum Design and Delivery 2018 (AKRI 2018) last month, Dr Maszlee Malik said lecturers should be dynamic and adapt to changes, yet hold on to the basic concepts of higher education.

And there must be a culture of innovation in the profession of lecturers to diversify teaching and learning methods.

Associate Professor Dr Wan Zuhainis Saad, a lecturer who has been teaching biotechnology and molecular science at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for the past 11 years and is currently seconded to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education as academic development management division director, believes in empowering learners, learning by doing and experiential learning.

"Students nowadays who are from Generation Z (born between the mid-1990s and the early 2000s) are different from those in other generations. They want to be involved, and have freedom to speak their own mind in their learning experience.

"As an educator, we need to create that opportunity for them to unleash their creative potential, skills and innovation. We need to design the learning activities which help students to identify their capabilities, strengths and weaknesses, and this will not happen if learning only takes place at lectures in a conventional classroom setting.

"We should take the advantages of the great things technology can bring that may not have been possible previously," said the recipient for Teaching award under the Pure Science Cluster category at the 12th National Academic Awards last year.

MORE ON PAGES 30, 31 & 32



Universities must practise innovative teaching.