

Getting youngsters to embrace technology

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AS technology and the Internet become an integral part of every field, the younger generation needs to embrace them and fully utilise the advancements they bring.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) School of Graduate Studies recently conducted a programme to provide early digital literacy exposure for Form Three to Form Five students of SMK Desa Serdang in Seri Kembangan, Selangor.

The one-day programme, entitled UPM@Desa Serdang Digital Knowledge, saw the participation of parents, teachers and students from the university's Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology.

Among the activities were an information communication technology (ICT) exhibition, pitching competition, spelling bee and course talk.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo officiated at the programme, which was attended by SMK Desa Serdang principal Ruslan Abdol and UPM School of Graduate Studies dean Professor Dr Robiah Yunus.

"With the progress in technology that we see, Malaysians, especially the younger generation, have a part to play in building a successful nation.

"Technology has changed the pattern of communication and economy, shedding light on new opportunities to achieve greater achievements," said Gobind.

"I like to emphasise the use of social media like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter among students. While these platforms have positive impact, many contents may be harmful if not utilised wisely."

He urged everyone to be careful when posting information online.

"I believe that with easy access to the Internet,



Gobind Singh Deo (fifth from right) and Ruslan Abdol (second from right) with SMK Desa Serdang and UPM students after officiating at the UPM@Desa Serdang Digital Knowledge programme recently.

information can be disseminated within seconds to millions of users.

"Hence, it is important to be cautious when spreading information as fake news and misinformation can have harmful effect on the society. If you're not sure, don't share it!

"I encourage everyone to check the authenticity of any information on the mainstream news at sebenarnya.my, a website by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission."

Gobind added that programmes like UPM@Desa Serdang could provide communities with exposure in ICT and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0).

Final-year computer science and information

technology student Siti Nurkhadijah Sullahaji said the activities could pique the students' interest in technology.

"In the course talk for Form Five students, we hope to provide an insight on technology subjects like computer science and information systems to those who are interested in pursuing these areas in their tertiary studies.

"I think it is important for students to be equipped with simple, essential digital skills, like making presentation slides and searching for information online. They also need to be exposed to current technological developments that are taking place," she said.