

PRESS RELEASE
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UTM and THETA Bridge the Digital Gap: Empowering Indigenous Communities
through the "Fun Learning Toy Library" Program Sustainably

Kuala Lumpur, January 29, 2024 – Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), in collaboration with Theta Edge Berhad through the #thetaCares initiative, will distribute ten (10) computers to an indigenous community school in Pos Lemoi, Cameron Highlands. This aligns with the aspiration to continually enhance Malaysia's socio-economic development through corporate social responsibility (CSR) under the USR Group's project, ***Adopt A Kampung***.

The Office for Indigenous Communities faces educational challenges, including many Indigenous children losing interest and struggling to attend school; some fear separation from their families due to homes located far in remote areas. To tackle these challenges and enhance education for Indigenous children, there is a need for innovative approaches that can engage and motivate students, supporting their learning meaningfully.

Professor Ts. Dr Abd Latif bin Saleh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (UTM Kuala Lumpur Campus), said, "I am delighted and proud to share the good news about UTM's collaborative efforts in creating better learning opportunities for the Orang Asli community in Pos Lemoi. This program brings joy to the children at the school and offers them opportunities to delve into artificial intelligence. Concurrently, UTM also announces a strategic collaboration with THETA Edge Berhad, a leading company in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, which will assist us in running this program more effectively."

"Theta continues to support efforts to increase student access to STEM subjects. Education using innovative approaches, such as the Fun Learning Toy Library (FLTL), will enable hands-on learning with real-world applications, helping students expand a broad range of skills and, more importantly, fostering curiosity and encouraging them to learn more about scientific subjects that will unlock their potential," said Datuk Nuraslina Zainal Abidin, CEO of the Theta Group.

"With these computer donations, along with digital infrastructure, we aim to promote community development and hope to nurture the indigenous students' interest in exploring a broader world of learning. It is also a method to increase their interest in attending school as they can learn using digital technology in this era of increasingly sophisticated globalisation," she added.

Through the #thetaCares initiative, UTM and Theta hope that the students will gain good digital access to quality education, enhancing their learning effectiveness and fostering digital literacy. The distribution of these computers addresses the teaching and learning needs in the classroom, facilitates coursework in the field of information and communication technology, and eases students' participation in ICT-related activities.

Recognising the importance of digital skills in facing future challenges, FLTL provides resources and supports the development of essential digital skills for the information technology era.

The strategic collaboration between Theta and UTM, a university focused on Science and Technology, aims to bridge the digital and STEM education gap for Orang Asli children in Pos Lemoi, Cameron Highlands. This effort concentrates on technology learning and raising awareness about artificial intelligence (AI), in line with current industry and technology needs. UTM believes this initiative will build an educational bridge and lead towards sustainable and inclusive development.

This program also supports the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of UTM in line with the United Nations' objectives. FLTL is more than just a library; it is an interactive and fun learning centre that aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Community Participation and Partnership). We believe that with active support and participation from all stakeholders, this program can have a lasting positive impact, create equal opportunities, and empower the Orang Asli community to face the challenges of the digital era. In conclusion, the Fun Learning Toy Library (FLTL) program is a beacon of hope and progress, symbolising our collective commitment to bridging the Digital Divide and empowering the Orang Asli community.

This program is also supported by various other entities such as the Adopt a Village Group of Razak Faculty of Technology & Informatics, UTMKL Library, UTM KL OSHE Office, NGOs like Srikandi, volunteers, and students who have collectively ensured the sustainability and success of this program.

We extend our gratitude for your contributions and support. UTM and Theta hope this collaboration will be the foundation for more positive achievements and strategic partnerships with the industry.

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About Theta Edge Berhad

Theta Edge Berhad ("Theta Edge Berhad") is one of Malaysia's pioneer Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Service Providers with a market presence of more than 30 years. The Group's business segments comprise Information Communication and Technology & System Integration, Telecommunications Engineering Services & Civil Works, Mobility Solutions, and Green Energy & Environmental Infrastructure Consultancy Services.

At Theta Edge Berhad, we are not just part of the industry—we are working to change it for the better. Our strong team of over 300 professionals are experts in various fields, constantly learning new things to keep up with a fast-paced technology environment.

For further details, please visit our website www.theta-edge.com