

GAB Foundation enriches English language Teachers & Pupils 70 teachers & 1,500 students from 40 schools to benefit

KUALA LUMPUR: GAB Foundation recently launched its inaugural English Enrichment Training Programme which trained 70 teachers from 40 schools. Some 1,500 students from these schools are expected to benefit from the programme by year-end through supplementary English classes supported by the Foundation.

These teachers, selected from national and national-type schools in Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Sabah and Sarawak, underwent a 4-day programme aimed at equipping them with new skills to teach English more effectively.

This specially developed programme was launched in conjunction with the Foundation's fifth year anniversary. This is an extension of the Foundation's on-going English Programme, which has been rolled out to more than 1,000 primary students since its introduction in 2008.

"The English Enrichment Training Programme marks a milestone in our efforts to promote English proficiency amongst local students.

"Our focus will now be on equipping teachers with the right skills to enable them to enrich their pupils' learning experiences and provide them with the opportunity to master the language. Teachers are cornerstones of our programmes as they have the potential to reach thousands more in the years to come," said Tan Sri Saw Huat Lye, Chairman of GAB Foundation.

Ms Susana Clement from SK Saint Columba, Miri, one of the oldest mission schools in Sarawak, has been teaching for 20 years. She said, "I have always wanted to improve the way I teach but I didn't not know how to go about this. This programme has now equipped me with new skills and sparked new ideas on how to reach out to my pupils".

Fellow teacher from SJKC Pay Fong (3), Melaka concurred. Ms Sam Yok Yin who teaches in a primary school with more than 260 pupils added that she found the various methods of teaching helpful.

"The concept of adapting one's teaching style to the child's way of learning is also very interesting. Moreover, the self-reflection sessions during the activities and games has enabled me to understand my weaknesses. I now know the areas I need to improve in order to become a better teacher," she said.

Mr S. Mahentran a/l Samy found the practical aspect of the programme to be unique. “In the past six years, I’ve attended many courses but this course is very different as the facilitators teach, guide and then, do practical demonstrations to enable us to apply the new techniques. I hope there will be follow-up courses to track our progress,” said the teacher of six years from SJKT Mahathma Gandhi Kalasalai, Sg Siput, Perak.

To help the participants apply the skills learnt and to ensure that their pupils benefit from the training, GAB Foundation will be supporting the roll out of the English Programme to the schools.

GAB Foundation Director, Ms Renuka Indrarajah said, “Initiatives that are structured and sustained for long-term impact are important to ensure that both teachers and pupils benefit. As such, these teachers will be conducting supplementary English classes for 15 weeks and this is expected to benefit some 1,500 students.

“In addition, we have assigned eight mentors to specific schools whom the teachers can contact for advice. These mentors, who are early childhood specialists, will also visit these schools to evaluate how the pupils are responding to their teachers and their teaching methods. They will also be providing the teachers with feedback for improvement.”

The training was conducted by seasoned trainers specialising in English and/ or early childhood education; Andal Krishnan, Amy Bala, Thavaranee Shanmugam and Vennila Veerappan.

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About GAB Foundation:

GAB Foundation was established in 2007 to carry out Guinness Anchor Berhad’s (GAB) corporate social responsibility initiatives in three core areas – environmental conservation, education and community. Within these three key areas, the Foundation strives to identify causes that not only contribute significantly to empowering and enriching the lives of deserving Malaysian individuals and communities, but also resonate with GAB’s corporate values of striving for excellence, acting with integrity and having a genuine respect for people, society and its diversity.

The management and administration of the Foundation is governed by a board of trustees made up of senior members of GAB’s management team and independent nominees.

For more information on the GAB Foundation please visit www.gabfoundation.org .