

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

39 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 74 SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION (FINAL) 2016

“RAP THE SCRAP”; Outstanding robot creations by students to effectively manage waste

SERI ISKANDAR, PERAK, 25 September 2016 - Ministry of Education of Malaysia (**MOE**) in collaboration with Sasbadi Holdings Berhad (**Sasbadi Holdings**) successfully held the 12th National Robotics Competition (**NRC**) Finals at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Seri Iskandar, Perak. Hosted by the Perak Education Department, the event received 186 primary and secondary school teams to compete in the competition which ran from 23-25 September 2016. The participants represented the best primary and secondary school teams from 13 states and 3 federal territories within Malaysia who qualified in the earlier stages of NRC 2016, which involved a total of 2,286 teams nationwide. All participating teams are winning teams within Malaysia which will be competing in three categories; Regular Category, Open Category with the theme “Rap The Scrap” and NRC Football. There are three events in the Regular Category which are the “Clean Road to School” for primary school, “Waste Sorting” for lower secondary school, and “Recycling Plant” for upper secondary school.

Last year NRC introduced a new category called the STEM Invention & Innovation Competition (STEM Competition), and the theme for this year is “Smart Furniture”. The challenge was to invent furniture that is portable and is able to transform to serve multiple purposes while also saving space. This category does not involve any programming and requires participants to invent according to the theme by applying exceptional creativity, Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) knowledge.

Director-General of Education, YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Khair bin Mohamad Yusof in his speech read by representative mentioned, “Programmes like the NRC effectively inculcate a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics among students and help them to develop crucial skill sets that are required in the 21st century. Thinking skills is one example where for our students to compete and succeed at a global level, they must be able to innovate and generate new ideas, analyse and anticipate problems critically, and independently drive their own learning throughout their lives. Robotics competitions certainly encourage students to exercise these essential skills as they actively think about and apply STEM concepts to overcome the competition challenges.”

“The Ministry of Education is always committed to the Vision 2020 through new and transformed education system. We are heavily invested in cultivating invention and innovation among the Malaysian youth, and strongly support students’ involvement in science and technology. Innovation, especially in robotics, is important to produce excellent industry players who are able to compete at a global level.”

This year NRC received support from Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (**UTP**) and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (**IEEE-RAS**) Malaysia as joint organizers. NRC is listed in UTP event calendar as part of Robot Fiesta Malaysia 2016 (“Robot Fiesta”). Robot Fiesta is deemed as one of the biggest robotics events in Malaysia with an estimated participation of 1,000 school children, tertiary education level students, researchers and academicians.

Welcoming the participants, **YBhg. Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hashim, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS** through his speech read by representative said, “We hope that this event will serve as a platform to stimulate students’ interest in the field of science, engineering and technology as well as address the nation’s call to produce more scientists, engineers and technologists that can compete in the global arena. UTP strongly advocates the assimilation of STEM into learning to support the holistic and systematic transformation of the education system. We hope that the NRC 2016 participants will continue to be inspired by joining UTP in the future.”

Group Managing Director of Sasbadi Holdings, Mr. Law King Hui shared, “What’s amazing about the NRC is that not only is it an effective platform for students to groom their skills for the 21st century, but it also emphasises on issues that are current and relevant in the real world today. *Rap The Scrap* is no exception, and our students have truly showcased their creative, innovative and problem solving capabilities in creating technologies to reduce, manage and recycle waste.”

Mr. Law also touched on the importance of STEM related programmes and how it is crucial to develop students’ interest starting from a young age. “Occupations around the world are increasingly looking to STEM skills as part of their requirements for employment. The future will demand various STEM related occupations which are not even existing today, so it is crucial for educators around the world to equip students with STEM skills so they are prepared for the challenges ahead,” he said. “This is exactly what the NRC and STEM Challenge were created for – to instil the interest of STEM and provide an exciting and practical platform for students to apply the knowledge.”

The STEM Challenge was held for the second time since being introduced last year, and caters for schools and students who are interested specifically in science and technology rather than robotics. He noted that both the STEM Challenge and NRC have received increased participation every year, which is the result of tireless efforts on the part of the MOE in implementing various robotics and science and technology programmes with strong support from teachers, parents and Sasbadi Holdings as well.

The winners of the NRC 2016 Final will represent Malaysia at the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) 2016 in New Delhi, India which will be held from 25 to 27 November 2016. “I am confident that we have a solid

contingent that we can be proud of to represent the country at the WRO 2016 in New Delhi, India this coming November,” added Mr Law.

Thanks to a highly successful collaboration between the MOE and Sasbadi Holdings, the national contingent has achieved an exemplary record during the WRO, bringing home the Overall Champion’s title 5 times in the last 7 years. The first was in 2009 in Pohang, South Korea; followed by 2010 in Manila, Philippines; in 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; in 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia; and for WRO 2015 in Doha, Qatar when the Malaysian Contingent obtained 3 gold medals, 2 bronze medals and 4 Excellence Awards.

About Sasbadi Holdings Berhad

Sasbadi Holdings Berhad (Sasbadi Holdings) is primarily a publisher of educational materials, undertaking print publishing focusing on primary and secondary school education. While most of its educational materials are based on the Malaysian National School Curriculum, the Group also publishes other non-curriculum based educational materials and general title books. The Group also undertakes online publishing of educational materials based on the Malaysian National School Curriculum. Sasbadi Holding’s business is also complemented by the distribution of applied learning products designed to provide hands-on learning experience to students. These products comprise miniature building blocks and mechanical, electrical and electronic components, as well as devices for measuring and analysing live signals, and software to create measurement and control systems.

For more information, please contact:

Eliziana binti Ahmad

Tel: +603-61451188

HP: +017-8732083

Email: eliziana@sasbadi.com