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ASTI'S RECOVERY PROJECTS LAUNCHING

PRESS RELEASE

The Association of Science, Technology, and Innovation (ASTI) is a non-governmental and non-profit oriented organization (NGO) working towards empowering young children's' interest in science through the act of doing where learning is achieved from discovering scientific principles themselves. In order to achieve this vision ASTI has experimented with various projects and has successfully gained traction on programs such as the Science Fair for Young Children (SFYC), Young Inventors Challenge (YIC), Creative, and Critical Thinking Camp (CCTC), and others. Each of these programs are interlinked in order to provide a platform for participation of young students that is holistic and inclusive in nature. Please refer to our website www.asti.org.my for more information regarding our projects.

With Covid-19 virus infections still rising, governments throughout the world are still scrambling to adapt to and adopt conditions leading to a new normal in their countries. The education sector is one that has been most impacted by the pandemic. To overcome this, the education sector in Malaysia has opted for the approach of online learning or e-learning with technology and devices as a mediator of communication to replace face-to-face learning. This is currently the most popular alternative solution to contain the spread of Covid-19.

However, we have received many feedbacks from parents, teachers and students, who are not able to learn due to lack of devices, good internet connection or conducive learning environment at home. We found that the B40 community were the most severely affected by this problem. Besides the lack of devices and reliable internet, some students live in small accommodations with insufficient space for learning to happen effectively. This is true particularly among the urban poor who live mostly in small flats such as the PPRT. Furthermore, Peer-to-peer learning – one of the most important method of learning among students has been reduced to almost zero in 2020. Thus, no matter how effective the online learning was, the lack of student-to-student interaction which is an integral component of the learning process has made learning difficult.

This problem is going to be more acute in Science and Mathematics where understanding complex scientific principles would require previous understanding of the 'simpler' principles which they may learn the year before. For example, one is not able to truly understand the scientific principle of "Pressure" if he/she does not understand "Force" first – and he/she will not fully understand "Force" if he/she does not understand "acceleration".

Considering some of the problems outlined above, ASTI is officially Launching ASTI's Recovery Project for Primary School Students as below:

1) ASTI Progressively Learning and Understanding Science (APLUS)

A-PLUS is run as workshops focusing on experimentation and activities. The project's objective is to help students understand key scientific concepts and principles in their syllabus by using hands-on methods. The focus is to build a framework for their understanding of the underlying principles, before they are given the information (facts and figures) in the classroom. This method of learning is based on the latest research on the brain and how it learns.

We have developed Module in Science for year 1 to 6 and Form 1. The facilitators will be trained and send to the interested schools to teach the students during weekends. The students will learn Scientific concepts through hand-on experiment methods.

This project does NOT focus on examinations but rather understanding. Thus, it can introduce and condense all the concepts that would normally be learnt in the year into a workshop of 1-3 days. Thus, the students that were unable to learn effectively in 2020 can learn these scientific concepts optimally in order for them to continue the following standard with less difficulty.

2) ASTI's STEM Academy

ASA is a portal to help students evaluate their current levels of understanding of a particular topic via regular self-assessment. The self-assessment would be in the form of a quiz that would be uploaded into a website. The students would sit for the quiz on a regular basis and marks would be given to the student to be able to assess their current levels of understanding. The process can be facilitated by their teachers and/or parents.

The main objectives of this quiz is to give an opportunity to the student to test their current understanding of the Science and Mathematics subjects that they have learned in the school or through online method. Moreover the portal will also provide students with the test result which can be used by the student/teacher/parent to strategies their learning strategy moving forward, in a regular and timely manner.

3) Special Programme for English Enhancement & Development (SPEED) by Direct English International Language Centre

This project targets students transitioning from primary to secondary schools. Our research has found that this is an important transition where many students face difficulties, particularly in understanding English. Many material are also available in English where many students are unable to access effectively. Thus were are working with our partner to provide SPEED with details below:

- Target Group: Form 1 Students (2021)
- 30 Contact Hours for one Direct English Level
- 3 Times per week (9am to 11am)
- Remote Teaching & Learning via Zoom or Google Meet
- Usual Fee: RM 1500 per Student per level,
- Special Fee: RM 800 per student per level If you registered through ASTI

For further details on each of the projects, kindly visit www.asti.org.my/recoveryprojects/. For further inquiry we can be reached via email at asti2510@gmail.com or WhatsApp us at 014-7124217.