

# STEAM AND INNOVATION FAIR (STEMIF) AT SMK RAWANG

On September 6–7, 2023, the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam had once again participated in the STEAM and INNOVATION FAIR (STEMIF) at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Rawang, Selangor. The national-level programme, held at the school's Dewan Angsana was organised by the Office of Industry, Community, and Alumni Network (ICAN), UiTM with collaboration from the school's management and personnel. The programme also received participation from other UiTM strategic partners and faculties, such as the Faculty of Health Sciences and College of Engineering, as well as agencies and private entities such as Majlis Rekabentuk Malaysia, PERKESO, al-Ikhsan Sports Sdn. Bhd., Shah Alam-based NextGen Makers Robotic Academy, and many others. The fair was held with the aim of nurturing interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) subjects, developing critical thinking skills, promoting creativity, and encouraging future enrollment in the STEAM field. It also provided unique opportunities for interactive learning among students through arranged programmes such as career talks, science workshops, high-tech product showcases, and fun competitions.

One of the faculty's delegations was a team led by Mdm. Nor Zaleha Ishak and comprised of staff from the Department of Pharmaceutics. The team set up a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) soap-making booth, which allows visitors to make their own customised soap in a more practical and safer environment by excluding the need for hazardous materials. The activity also stimulates participants' creativity through experimenting with different fragrances and colours for their custom-made soaps. The team created an engaging and entertaining experience by challenging the visitors with spontaneous quizzes to provoke their curiosity and thinking skills, such as measures to expedite the melting of soap base bars and proper ways of handling laboratory glassware. Similarly, the team received many questions on the relationship of the booth's activity with the Faculty of Pharmacy, to which the team gladly explained the invention of pharmaceutical products and consumer safety.



Another faculty's delegation, MAKERLAB UiTM, led by Dr. Siti Azma Jusof, exhibited their 3-D modelling printer during the fair. Assisted with the help of postgraduate students and interns from other universities, the booth showcased printed products designed by UiTM students and personnel previously attached to the lab. The booth's visitors were briefed on the process of 3D printing, from sketching and designing using its software to producing the final construct. In addition, the faculty was also represented by the Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mohd Shahezwan Abd Wahab, who delivered an illuminating career talk to the students and attendees alike. Dr. Shahezwan delivered an engaging and enthusiastic talk, aiming to inspire the students to pursue pharmacy as their future career. He shared insights on the distinctions between doctors' and pharmacists' job scopes, study paths to follow, and potential job opportunities as a registered pharmacist.

The two-day programme concluded with a closing ceremony at the school's assembly hall. It was also attended by Professor Dr. Muhammad Hussain Ismail, the Director of UiTM's ICAN, among other guests who delivered a speech on the importance of STEAM fields before the ceremony proceeded to the certificate- and prize-giving session. The programme was a success, given the overwhelming participation of attendees who visited the faculty's booths. Collectively, the delegates achieved their objectives of making the faculty more visible to the public as well as supporting the university's and national agenda to promote interest in STEAM among students.

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