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SMART MOSQUE INNOVATION COMPETITION: MASJID SHEIKH HJ AHMAD AND UiTMCNS - FOSTERING INNOVATION, EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the current educational landscape, technological advancements have significantly redefined the approaches to teaching and learning. One such innovation, the micro:bit, plays a crucial role in preparing school children to navigate and contribute to an increasingly digital society. By introducing young learners to coding, problem-solving, and creative thinking, the micro:bit helps develop essential digital competencies from an early age. UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan (UiTMCNS), Masjid Sheikh Hj Ahmad and Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Seremban was jointly organised the Smart Mosque Innovation Competition, which aims to develop smart solutions for the mosque by using micro:bit tools. The competition emphasised human governance values, shaping not just knowledge and skills but also ethics and integrity.

INTRODUCTION

On 16 August 2025, Masjid Sheikh Hj Ahmad in Bandar Sri Sendayan was transformed into a hub of creativity and innovation during the Smart Mosque Innovation Competition. This program brought together primary, secondary, and special education students to showcase their innovative projects that combined technology, creativity, and community values.

The innovations presented during the competition were driven by the creativity of students, who utilised micro:bit tools to develop smart solutions for the mosque. Micro:bit, a versatile microcontroller designed for educational purposes, enabled students to explore technologies such as sensors, automation, and connectivity. By integrating these tools with their creative ideas, students developed projects that enhanced the mosque's functionality and efficiency. Each design showcased a thoughtful combination of technology, innovation, creativity, and the core values of the mosque community. The event officially commenced at 8:00 a.m., with the mosque becoming a vibrant hub of activity. The space was filled with enthusiastic participants, dedicated educators, supportive parents, and engaged members of the local community, all contributing to the lively and inclusive atmosphere. The day began with participant registration and booth preparation, followed by vibrant project exhibitions. The students demonstrated remarkable determination and enthusiasm, which were clearly reflected in the creative solutions they presented. Their contributions showcased a strong passion for innovation and a keen interest in problem-solving, highlighting the effectiveness of the program in nurturing critical thinking and inventive approaches.

The competition recorded an impressive total of 72 students forming into 24 groups, comprising 17 groups from primary school, 6 groups from secondary school and 1 group from the Special Education Integration Programme. These participants represented from various schools across Seremban and nearby districts. Throughout the event teachers, parents, and guardians played a crucial role, providing strong encouragement and moral support throughout the event. A panel of 24 professional jurors from UiTMCNS was responsible for evaluating the student projects. Their efforts were effectively supported by both the mosque and UiTMCNS committees, who played an important role of the program in ensuring the smooth and efficient execution of the program. Masjid Sheikh Hj Ahmad made generous contribution by sponsoring meals worth more than RM2,400, reflecting a strong spirit of collaboration and unity between the mosque and the academic community.

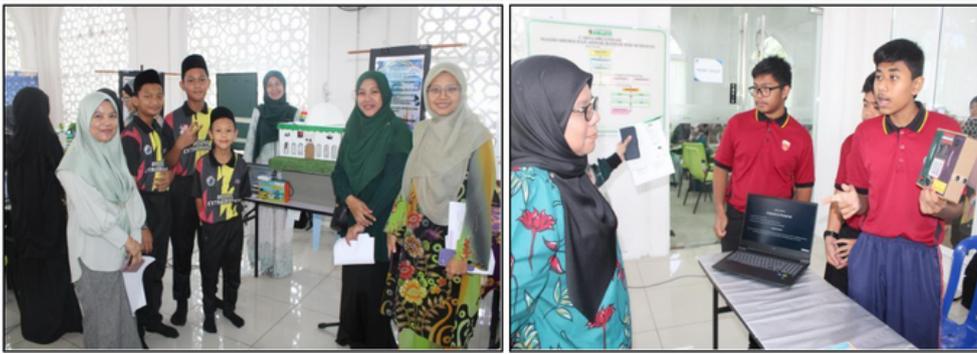


Figure 1: Presentation of participants with the Jury

As shown in Figure 1, the jury session was a pivotal part of the competition, where the students' hard work and creativity were put to the test. As the jurors moved from one project booth to another, the air was filled with anticipation and excitement. Each group had the opportunity to present their innovative solutions, explaining how they had utilised micro:bit tools and integrated technology into their designs. The jury attentively evaluated each project based on criteria such as creativity, practicality, and relevance to the theme of smart mosques. Throughout the session, students passionately discussed their ideas, while the jurors asked insightful questions, offering constructive feedback. The atmosphere was both encouraging and educational, as the jurors worked diligently to assess the students' efforts and contributions to the development of a smarter, more connected place of worship.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Winners were announced in three categories (shown in Figure 2):

- Category A (Primary School) - Championed by students from Sekolah Kebangsaan LB Johnson.
- Category B (Secondary School) - Led by students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bandar Baru Sri Sendayan.
- Category C (Special Education) - Special awards were presented to students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Tuanku Jaafar, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bukit Kepayang and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seremban 2.

Beyond the awards, the true victory lay in the participants' creativity, teamwork, and ability to design projects with real value for the community.



Figure 2: Special award category and all participants who joined the competition

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Smart Mosque Innovation Competition has created a meaningful impact by enhancing students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes while fostering collaboration among schools, parents, UiTMCNS, and the mosque community. Students not only gained valuable understanding and practical abilities such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, but also developed confidence, responsibility, and a positive mindset that prepares them to adapt their skills to future challenges. Despite challenges such as limited preparation time, the event proved that with strong collaboration, meaningful initiatives can be realised.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that this competition will continue as an annual tradition, inspiring more young generations to think critically, act ethically, and innovate for the greater good of the community. By embedding innovation within faith-based community spaces, the program has shown how education, creativity, and social values can converge for lasting impact, not only for participants but also for the wider community.