

PHARMACY - Kerjaya

CULTIVATING STEM INTEREST AMONG YOUNG MINDS

Through Community Outreach at SMK Kuala Selangor

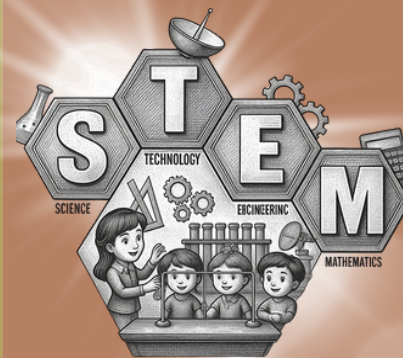
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UiTM - SMK KS

On 20th May 2026, academic staff from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), participated as invited speakers and exhibitors in PROBALEARN: Dari Idea ke Realiti & Karnival Kecemerlangan 360, a STEM-focused programme organised by Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kuala Selangor (SMKKS). The programme aimed to expose secondary school students to the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), while broadening their awareness of future educational and career opportunities.

Bringing STEM to Life

As part of the programme, the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM contributed through a series of STEM talks and interactive exhibitions designed to inspire curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and demonstrate the relevance of science in everyday life. The initiative provided an excellent platform for academics to engage directly with students and showcase how STEM knowledge can be applied to address real-world challenges in healthcare, agriculture, technology, and forensic science.



Discovering the World of STEM

The STEM session commenced with a presentation by Dr. Mohd Shihabuddin Ahmad Noorden, who introduced students to the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM and highlighted the importance of STEM education in driving innovation and national development. He also shared insights into the diverse educational pathways and career opportunities available in science, healthcare, and research, encouraging students to view STEM as a foundation for future success.

STEM Beyond Boundaries

The programme further showcased the multidisciplinary nature of STEM through a series of engaging talks. Dr. Ruzianisra Mohamed introduced students to the rapidly advancing fields of computer science, bioinformatics, and artificial intelligence, while Dr. Nurfarhana Ferdaos explored the fascinating relationship between the human brain and computer technology. Dr. Azwandi Ahmad captivated the audience with an interactive session on the benefits and dangers of flies to humans, including their unique role in forensic investigations. Meanwhile, Dr. Noor Anilizawatima Sulong demonstrated how plant tissue culture technology can contribute to sustainable agriculture and food security.



Beyond the talks, the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM exhibition booth became one of the main attractions during the carnival. Students gathered enthusiastically around the displays, eager to learn more about the preserved fly specimens, forensic entomology exhibits, educational posters, and banana tissue culture samples. The high level of interaction and the numerous questions posed by students reflected a genuine interest in science and highlighted

the effectiveness of hands-on learning experiences in stimulating STEM engagement. The exhibition also provided students with a valuable opportunity to interact directly with researchers and academics, allowing them to gain a deeper appreciation of how scientific discoveries contribute to society. Through these interactions, students were able to connect classroom learning with practical applications in healthcare, agriculture, environmental monitoring, and forensic science.

Shaping a Sustainable Future

A memorable highlight of the programme was the visit by Mdm Siti Maslina, Principal of SMKKS, to the Faculty of Pharmacy exhibition booth, where she met with UiTM representatives and expressed her appreciation for the knowledge-sharing activities conducted throughout the event.



Her support reflects the school's commitment to strengthening STEM education and fostering meaningful collaborations with higher education institutions.



A lecturer from the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, was invited to serve as a judge for an innovation competition involving secondary schools (SMKs) in Kuala Selangor. A total of 15 innovative products were showcased during the competition. The participants enthusiastically presented their projects and

demonstrated remarkable creativity in their efforts to secure the top prizes. Such competitions play an important role in fostering students' interest in science, technology, and innovation while encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills

The programme concluded with a networking and collaboration signing ceremony between SMKKS and the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM. The document was signed by Mdm Siti Maslina, Principal of SMKKS, and Associate Professor Dr. Fazleen Haslinda Mohd Hatta, Deputy Dean (Industry,



Community and Alumni Network – ICAN), Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM. This collaboration marks an important step towards strengthening educational partnerships and expanding future STEM-related activities that will benefit school communities.



Future Innovators

Participation in programmes such as PROBALEARN reflects the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM's ongoing commitment to community engagement, STEM advocacy, and knowledge transfer. By sharing scientific knowledge

directly with schools and the wider community, the faculty hopes to inspire the next generation of innovators, researchers, healthcare professionals, and problem-solvers. As demonstrated by the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by the students throughout the programme, fostering STEM awareness at an early age remains essential in preparing future talent capable of contributing to Malaysia's scientific and technological advancement.