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# EXHIBITION AND CAREER BRIEFING IN CONJUNCTION WITH STEM WEEK

Tuan Norhafizah Tuan Zakaria, Nadiyah Mohamed, Mahfuzah Mahayadin & Nur Ida Aniza Rusli

Pengajian Sains Pengkomputeran dan Matematik  
Kolej Pengajian Pengkomputeran, Informatik dan Matematik,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM),  
Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Kampus Kuala Pilah,  
72000, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus, Malaysia.  
tuannorhafizah@uitm.edu.my

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics at UiTM Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah has received an invitation to participate in a career exhibition at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seri Jempol on September 23, 2023, in conjunction with STEM, Health, and Career Week. This exhibition was held from 9.30 am to 2.00 pm. This event was organized by Unit Bimbingan dan Kaunseling, and Unit Bidang Sains dan Matematik, SMK Seri Jempol. The purpose of this program is to provide students with first-hand insights into STEM careers, promoting the critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To foster their interest in science and mathematics, the students were provided with a range of mathematical games and exercises. The students are seen to be highly motivated to participate in answering math game questions and responded positively to the program. They also provided positive feedback for this program.

## INTRODUCTION

STEM, an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, represents a multidisciplinary approach that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving and innovation. STEM education and careers give a great influence to the development of talent, economic growth, and technical innovation in Malaysia. Malaysia has embraced STEM education as the pillar of its educational system. This approach not only empowers a STEM-literate generation but also positions Malaysia at the global innovation, fostering economic competitiveness and scientific brilliance. Malaysia realized how important it is to develop a strong talent to navigate this rapidly changing landscape as the world grows more dependent on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Idris et. al., 2023). In order to create a STEM-literate society in Malaysia with an adequate and high-quality labour market, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) have initiated strategic programmes such as science exhibition to increase student enrollment in STEM fields (Foi & Kean, 2022).

Thus, on 27th September 2023, the College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics, UiTM Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah participated in the STEM exhibition and career fair held at Sekolah Menengah Seri Jempol. This event served as a platform for all students of SMK Seri Jempol to explore the STEM education and careers. Four representatives (Computer Science and Mathematics lecturers) from the College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics at UiTM Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah were involved in providing guidance in solving mathematical equations to school students. To enhance their interest in science and mathematics, the students were equipped with a range of mathematical games and exercises. Students received practical knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through engaging discussion, educational games, and interactive demonstrations. Apparently, the students were highly inspired to participate in mathematics activities and to answer questions. Additionally, students received various gifts for correctly completing the exercise or finishing the given games. At the program's conclusion, students give a good responses at the end of the program. Pictures taken throughout the program are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.





Figure 2: Lecturers Participated in The Exhibition



Figure 1: Students Participated in The Activities

## RESULTS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Impressive outcomes and accomplishments emerged from the STEM exhibition participated by College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics at UiTM Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah. Through the active discussion and mathematical games activities, students were not only exposed to the various fields of STEM but also actively engaged in a range of mathematical activities and games.

The positive responses from the participants demonstrated their excitement to participate in the interactive sessions and answer questions. This positive reaction highlights how well the programme has done in piquing youngsters' interest in STEM fields. Overall, the program was successful in encouraging students at Sekolah Menengah Seri Jempol to think critically, solve problems, and show interest in STEM-related fields.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics at UiTM Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah made significant strides in promoting STEM education during the exhibition and career briefing at Sekolah Menengah Seri Jempol on September 27, 2023. The active involvement of Computer Science and Mathematics lecturers, coupled with engaging activities and interactive sessions, resulted in a positive and enthusiastic responses from students. The event successfully provided valuable insights into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As reflects on the success of the STEM education promotion event, there are opportunities for future enhancement. Considering the positive responses, future initiatives could include expanding outreach to more schools and communities to broaden the impact. Incorporating hands-on workshops and industry collaborations could deepen students' understanding and relevance of STEM concepts. Additionally, feedback mechanisms should be implemented to continually refine and improve the effectiveness of such programs, ensuring a sustained and impactful contribution to STEM education in the region.

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