

# NEW EDUCATION ENTERPRISE, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

## Interview: Anticipated Question & Answers

### A. Malaysian Education Industry Landscape

1. In light of the implementation of STEM, how has New Education Enterprise adapted to the STEM model?

- Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad explains that the Malaysian government is seeking to revitalise the nation's education system<sup>1</sup> by introducing the STEM model in key areas such as the English language, quality of teachers, and employability of graduates.<sup>1</sup>
- In response to the STEM model, Managing Director of New Education Enterprise, Mr Jonathan Loh, all students must equip themselves with critical skills, such as being technology literate, in order to succeed in today's everchanging career landscape. In response to the STEM model, New Education Enterprise seeks to introduce students to various technologies and digital applications to keep them abreast with today's rapid development of new technologies and gadgets.
- Moreover, New Education Enterprise has collaborated with Watson University Malaysia at the recent STEM Festival 2019 to educate students on theories and practical applications of technology through The Drone Challenge Course to fly drones across an obstacle course, as an initiative to capture the interest of the students in learning more about technology.
- New Education Enterprise's initiative to promote the STEM model is the right way forward to advance Malaysia's education system, as we are already seeing developed countries such as the United Kingdom already equipping their students from as young as five years old to learn programming skills on algorithms, debugging and Boolean logic in the classroom.<sup>2</sup>

2. What are the challenges and opportunities identified in the education industry that New Education Enterprise aims to address?

- From a bird's-eye view, traditional education began with 'scaffolding learning' where learning was done through the teacher's lessons in a classroom setting, with the students absorbing what was taught during the lesson. This traditional method of learning then evolved into a new method of education, that is 'designing' – it involves the construction of new knowledge built upon what was taught. Currently, the educational trend emphasises on 'self-directed learning' which refers to a learning method that is socially constructed and contextually reinvented.
- With the implementation of the 'self-directed learning' method, the primary challenge of students rigidly utilising a "textbook mindset" which strongly emphasises 'scaffolding' and 'designing' learning methods, have now been erased to encompass a newer and improved method of learning.
- As an education transformation provider, New Education Enterprise can utilise its specialties in whole school transformation which focuses on improving the school's senior leadership and teaching staff and putting the children at the centre of its work, rather than focusing on altering the school's structure, this transformation initiative can potentially improve quality of teaching to boost the children's learning experience.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> '3 In 1' Plan To Boost Unity In Schools', New Straits Times, 19 April 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/sep/04/coding-school-computing-children-programming>

<sup>3</sup> <http://jci.edu.my/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/JCI-WP1.pdf>

## **NEW EDUCATION ENTERPRISE, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.**

3. How can the private sector play a bigger role to advocate for whole school transformation in Malaysia?

- Private schools can produce better whole school transformation in their school's performance through competition, accountability and autonomy. However, without strong systems of accountability, private schools with public funding aren't likely to produce large gains.<sup>4</sup>

4. How can New Education Enterprise contribute to the future workforce?

- By 2025, it is predicted that professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics will constitute a whopping number of 75% of the workforce. These groups of professionals consist of highly qualified engineers and tech-savvy individuals from the Facebook Generation. Currently in Malaysia, the number of students studying in the science stream are drastically lesser compared to those studying in the arts. With the advent of technology, the demand for technology literate workers will skyrocket in the near future.<sup>5</sup>
- New Education Enterprise can contribute to the preparation of the future workforce by training teachers to adopt a student-centric approach to teach and educate, rather than using traditional academic teaching.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/education/mortarboard/2011/aug/09/private-sector-role-in-education>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.myforesight.my/2017/11/22/stem-education-preparing-the-future-workforce/>