

AI Education to Be Introduced in Malaysian Primary Schools by 2027

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IN a bid to prepare students for the digital future, Malaysian primary schools are set to introduce a new subject called Technology and Digital, incorporating essential teachings on Artificial Intelligence (AI). This initiative, slated to commence in 2027, aims to equip young learners with the foundational knowledge required to navigate an increasingly AI-driven world.

Dr. Sia Chin Chin, Programme Director for Master of Laws Programmes at Taylor's University, emphasizes the significance of integrating AI basics into the curriculum. According to Dr. Sia, understanding AI concepts such as categorization, classification, machine learning, and collaborative filtering is crucial for fostering digital literacy and ensuring that students stay at the forefront of technological advancements.

The curriculum will include the "Fasih Digital" (digital literacy) program, comprising seven competency modules that students must master. Through hands-on activities and exploration, children will delve into various AI applications, from robot programming to chatbot design, fostering a blend of play and learning.

Dr. Sia highlights the importance of introducing AI to students at an early age. For lower primary children, the focus will be on distinguishing between human and AI characteristics, as well as understanding the ethical implications of AI technology. Upper primary students will develop problem-solving skills through practical applications, encouraging critical thinking and responsible use of AI.

However, the success of AI education hinges on adequate infrastructure and teacher training. Dr. Sia stresses the need for schools to invest in IT infrastructure and provide teachers with up-to-date training to effectively deliver the curriculum. Moreover, addressing the digital divide between urban and rural areas is paramount to ensure equitable access to AI education.

In light of the evolving landscape of work, Dr. Sia emphasizes the importance of AI literacy for future generations. By introducing AI basics in primary schools, Malaysia aims to empower students to harness the potential of AI responsibly, fostering a generation of innovative thinkers poised to shape the future.

As Malaysia takes strides towards integrating AI education into its primary school curriculum, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders must collaborate to ensure its success. With proper infrastructure and training, Malaysia aims to equip its students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the digital era.

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