

INTELLECTUAL Leadership, fondly known as i-Lead, is a leadership workshop organised by the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI) with the aim of developing young leaders among students in our country.

Since its inception in 2015, i-Lead had garnered the participation of over 2,000 student representatives from more than 40 schools and higher learning institutions nationwide.

According to i-Lead's Head Facilitator Muhammad Zamri Zainal Abidin, it is ideal to inculcate leadership skills from an early age.

He reasoned that young students have a greater capacity to learn from their mistakes and adapt at a quicker pace, giving them a head start and a competitive edge when they enter university.

Zamri shared that he was inspired by a facilitator who ran leadership workshops during his school days, which set him on his path to where he is today.

"Like him, I hope to inspire

Leadership gives an edge

others through this programme and in turn, create more young leaders in tomorrow's generation," he said.

The interesting and unique aspect of i-Lead is the make-up of the programme.

It is conducted by more than 150 well-trained facilitators, which consist of UniKL MSI students from different academic disciplines and various extracurricular backgrounds.

In developing and executing these modules, the facilitators share and consolidate their ideas, each bringing to the table their expertise from respective backgrounds.

The result is over 25 interactive modules infused with innovative ideas that cover various programmes such as group training, physical exploration and spiritual reflection, to name a few.

It introduces highly engaging activities that revolve around four main objectives – developing critical thinking, teamwork, time management and the ability to perform under pressure – designed to ensure that every student involved could gain knowledge regarding leadership effectively.

For one of the modules, known as "origami market", students were required to fold origami with non-verbal instructions through gestures by the teammates.

This activity not only inspires the students to have fun but also challenges them to expand their communication and creativity skills using critical thinking.

Similarly, in the explore race challenge, students were tasked to accomplish specific assignments under a short period of time while being



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dealt with certain handicaps at each checkpoint.

This helps enhance teamwork and develop their ability to overcome obstacles while working under external pressure.

By focusing on these objectives, i-Lead aims to mould students to become intelligent leaders who are capable of handling the trust given to them wisely by using their potentials and environment optimally.

"This programme covers the understanding of the responsibilities and trusts as a person called a leader," said UniKL MSI's Dean Prof. Dr Abu Talib Othman.

This runs parallel to UniKL MSI constant initiative in developing students who not only excel academically but also in terms of personality and self-skills.

Facilitator Wan Mohd Asraf Hussien Wan Omar shared that i-Lead benefits not only its participants but also the facilitators by enhancing their own personal growth.

Asraf is a UniKL MSI student pursuing his Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Mechanical (Automotive) with an interest in cultural curricular background.

Known to be a studious and quiet student, Asraf shared that participating in i-Lead had changed him for the better.

As a facilitator, it provides him the opportunity to constantly improve his leadership skills, which he found necessary to operate organisations effectively.

He believes that incorporating

certain qualities through training and with the right guidance, anyone is capable of becoming a leader.

After all, "leaders are not defined by titles," he said. Sharing this sense of achievement by guiding others to be leaders is a huge success for him.

For Zamri, who is also pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Mechanical (Automotive) at UniKL MSI, being a facilitator provides him with the skills required to manage and lead others when he takes his place in the workforce.

i-Lead becomes a platform that equips him with the necessary skills in order to climb the corporate ladder and attain success in his career.

Hence, in developing personality and self-skills, UniKL MSI produces students who are not only academically successful but more importantly, students who are versatile.

UniKL MSI believes that leadership is the main core of developing and nurturing a great identity in human beings.

In line with this belief, UniKL MSI is committed to ensuring the continuity of the i-Lead programme, which is seen as beneficial in generating young leaders in hopes that they could contribute their will and strength in pursuit of a better country.

■ For more information, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.



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Participants of the i-Lead workshop are guided by well-trained facilitators, comprising Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) students from different academic disciplines and extracurricular backgrounds.