

# NALI 2018 EVENT REPORT

*Tuesday, 25th September 2018 , DEWAN SULTAN ISKANDAR*



## **Post-Event Report**

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## Introduction

NALI 2018 Exhibition was the showcase event for the New Academia Learning Innovation. Being held at Dewan Sultan Iskandar Hall this year, the event showcased different groups and organisations who worked towards the goals of NALI. The Exhibition commenced on the 25th of October 2018 and lasted till 26th October.

The exhibition was organised with 1 main stage and several booths showcasing projects spanning from education to enhanced learning to peer review techniques. The main goal of the organisation is to find and encourage ways to improve our education system, encourage STEM among students and educators and to recognise trailblazers in this field.

Our main task was to learn about NALI, go to the booths and gather information about the different initiatives there. Due to the sheer number of booths at NALI 2018 we chose to cover just 1 keynote speech and 3 booths. These being as follows:

1. KEYNOTE SPEECH BY PROF. MUSHTAK AL-ATABI
2. MFRS LAGOON & THEME PARK: AUGMENTED REALITY & VIRTUAL REALITY
3. DATA ANALYTICS OF BLENDED LEARNING FOR DATA STRUCTURE SUBJECT THROUGH MOOC
4. INSTILLING SOFT SKILL AMONG FORM SIX STUDENTS

We visited all the booths and had conversations with the exhibitionists there. Below we have summarised our experience and thoughts on this event.

## KEYNOTE

Speaker: **Prof.Mushtak al-Atabi**

Prof. Mushtak, who represents Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, was here to give a talk on his accomplishments that made a huge impact on people's lives. His online courses, which he regards as one of his greatest accomplishments, not only prepares people for exams but also teaches them how to be emotional thinkers. By this way his students wouldn't be slaves to the modern technology that they surrounded with but would be able to implement emotional traits to collaborate with these gadgets and get the most out of them. Besides that, he has been organizing awareness-camp-like events dedicated to the younger generation called Youth Transformation Programme where young students are able to gain knowledge on preparing for their forthcoming career and become aware of the upcoming Industrialization 4.0 and be anticipated for the challenges ahead of them in the near future.



*Picture taken with Prof.Mushtak (second from left) together with the group members.*

## BOOTH 1: MFRS LAGOON & THEME PARK: AUGMENTED REALITY & VIRTUAL REALITY

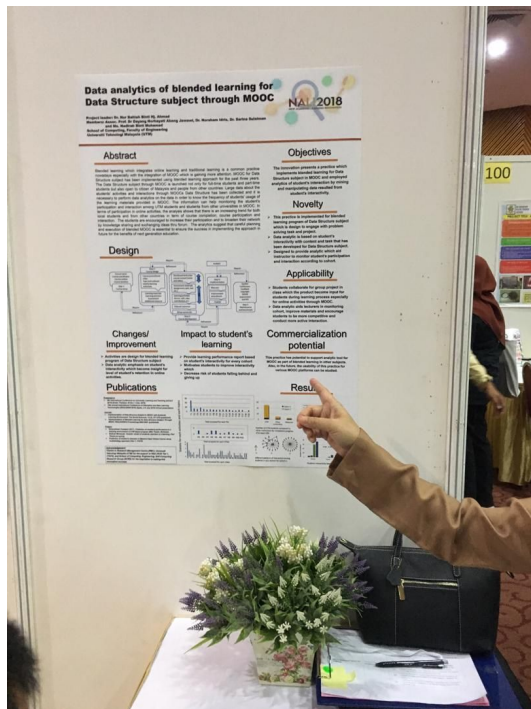
The “Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality” booth was one of the first booths we visited during our visit in NALI 2018. Dr. Radziah Mahmud, from Universiti Teknologi Mara, was the representative of the booth. She began by explaining what “MFRS Lagoon & Theme Park” is. “MFRS Lagoon & Theme Park” is a game designed to help accounting students understand and apply the knowledge of accounting in a pseudo real life scenario. She stated that the game is a fun method for accounting students to apply the knowledge that they learned from class in a less tedious and fun learning process. She gave us a brief explanation on how the game worked. According to her the game only requires the use of a smartphone and a game board which has all the tools that are needed for a game of monopoly

(dice, miniatures, etc). She stated that the game is similar to a traditional monopoly game, but it uses a smartphone to virtually check all the details of the places that are available on the game board. A VR headset can also be used to create a more realistic environment and experience. She told us that the game is currently in the prototype stage, but she believes that the game will be finalised and commercialized in the near future. She plans to provide it to other Universities and other educational institutions once it has been finalised to facilitate the learning process and make it fun and easy to learn accounting.



The VR headset and game board created by  
Universiti Teknologi MARA

## BOOTH 2: DATA ANALYTICS OF BLENDED LEARNING FOR DATA STRUCTURE SUBJECT THROUGH MOOC



Dr. Bahiah pointing out the booth's outline

After visiting several booths, we decided to take a look at Dr. Nor Bahiah Hj. Ahmad's booth. Dr Bahiah was not alone, she was accompanied by one of her colleague, who is currently studying in UTM. Dr. Bahiah explained to us that MOOC (which stands for "Massive Open Online Course") is an online course that can be accessed through the internet to aid its users in their learning outcome. She told us that MOOC provides interactive courses to forums that are created in the website, in order to create an interactive community between students and the professors. She stated that the course provides numerous amounts of activities for its students to do, starting from online quizzes, to creating online presentations through slides or videos as alternative to help students understand the lessons better. She also told us that the MOOC is available to all, which means that not only college students can access it. She stated that students who miss class can also use the website to help them catch with the topics they missed from class.



### BOOTH 3: INSTILLING SOFT SKILL AMONG FORM SIX STUDENTS

After a while, we visited a booth entitled Instilling Soft Skill Among Form Six Students. Mrs. Mazlina binti Mat Isa was the booth representative. She began her explanation by saying that Form Six is one of many pre-university programs in Malaysia. She told us that Form Six is actually a better choice than matriculation and foundation because the form six Certificate, Malaysia Higher School Certificate (STPM), is monitored by Cambridge representative and is recognized in many universities all around the world. She also explained to us that she was researching the instilling of soft skills among Form Six students. She told us that there are seven soft skills that teenagers must learn, which are communication skills, team working skills, leadership skills, problem solving skills, critical thinking, information management skills, ethics and professional moral value. During her research, she found out that teachers in Form Six are

instilling soft skills among the students through various methods such as group assignment, group discussion and group presentation. She stated that the soft skills elements equipped among the Form Six students had constructed a soft skills framework. Therefore, she told us that Form Six must be promoted and cannot be ignored because students cannot learn only from textbooks, but also soft skills which are becoming ever so important as we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution.



Mrs. Mazline with her booth.

From the booth, we learnt that soft skills are very important and they are becoming more important day by day. We think that the education system in every part of the world must instill the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills among the new generation so that they can survive in this new era. We felt very happy that Mrs. Mazlina binti Mat Isa was very determined and patient in promoting Malaysia Higher School Certificate (STPM) because she wants to let more people know that it is a good pre-university program to study in. We sincerely hope that she can reach her target as soon as possible so that more people become aware about the importance of soft skills in the future.

## REFLECTION

From our point of view of NALI is a program to research effective ways of teaching and learning to be used in the future. The current tradition of students going to school and listening to teachers lectures and doing assignments is seen as inadequate for the current times therefore from the exhibition we attended, we saw various ways to improve the efficacy of the teaching and learning process. Among them is the example game of a Professor from MARA University of Technology. Radziah Mahmud makes games related to the concept of accounting. this can increase students' understanding of the subject. not only is there a teacher who creates an easy technique for elementary students to master the fractional subjects. they stated that the subject of fracture was a very difficult subject for primary school students to master. Or distance learning through projects like MOOC, which can help people learn and develop skills on their own pace. Skills like soft skills which are so very important and programs like Soft skill among form 6 students can help people get ahead in this sector.

The NALI program has helped open the eyes of many parties. It has shown that the process of teaching and learning can still be improved. The programs that we saw here will definitely increase the effectiveness of the existence of the partnership between students and teachers. Lastly we believe that exhibitions like NALI 2018 help promote these very crucial sectors and can help the system as a whole to adapt and re organise to better serve the future generations. These events can shape future academia and make sure the upcoming workforce are prepared for the challenges that are coming their way We feel that NALI will continue its good work and may add further research for future use.