

LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE (L3C) CREATES PRODUCTIVE SOCIETY



By Corporate Communications Division, Ministry of Education

A self-initiated education with a focus on personal growth is what lifelong learning generally entails as people enrol in these courses based on their innate interests, curiosities, and motivations that are voluntary and driven by personal interest or personal growth. The Lifelong Learning Centre (L3C), Ministry of Education was established on 23rd September 2019 corresponding to 23 Muharram 1441 during the 29th National Teachers' Day celebration to accelerate and strengthen the country's human resources development through lifelong learning. The aspiration of the Lifelong Learning Centre is to become a centre of excellence for expanding lifelong learning opportunities and strengthening communities by 2024. Their programmes and courses are carefully designed to ensure they meet the standardised guidelines to be a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). The Lifelong Learning Centre offers a diverse set of programmes which are categorised into 4 types or pillars namely Workforce Development Programmes (WDP); Academic Upgrading Programmes (AUP); Community Development Programmes (CDP) and; Personal Development Programmes (PDP).

The Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE), Politeknik Brunei (PB), Pusat Pembangunan Belia, Centre for Life Learning UBD, Tri-cred UTB, SEAMEO VOCTECH, Beyond Tomorrow, Leadership and Lifelong Learning Centre UNISSA, and AYZIN are among the training providers that make up the Lifelong Learning Centre.

As of July 2022, the Centre has conducted more than 200 lifelong learning programmes with almost 3,000 participants since its establishment. On a national level, the centre is essential to attaining Wawasan 2035, which calls for the creation of a society with a high level of education and skills.

As His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted during Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) 9th Convocation ceremony, education is undoubtedly a lifelong investment and it knows no limits or limitations. Under the direction of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning Centre is to ensure that everyone has equal access to opportunities for programmes that not only support but also enhance Brunei's human capital development.



Community Development Programme: Knitting by Lifelong Learning Centre (L3C)

In a statement on 'National Policies on Lifelong Learning: Achievement, Challenges and Recommendation' at a workshop on National Policies on Lifelong Learning toward Sustainability in Southeast Asia as part of the Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII), Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh, the Ministry of Education, emphasised her conviction in the power of effective regional cooperation and governance to guarantee that no lifelong learner is left behind and the area can grow in a way that is both sustainable and equitable.

Towards a Productive Society

The Lifelong Learning Centre's mission is to build inclusive communities and holistic individuals by enhancing opportunities for lifelong learners of all ages. The programmes run by the centre aim to spread knowledge and information about a wide range of skills and talents, including both contemporary and complex skills such as those related to information technology and also skills that relate to security and sustainable livelihoods such as basic accounting and finance.

In 2020, the Secretariat of Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) introduced an initiative called SkillsPlus which provides funding assistance to local jobseekers and local employees in the private sector including freelancers to enrol in upskilling and reskilling programmes at the Lifelong Learning Centre.

The programmes are constantly revamped and revised to stay up-to-date with specific industry needs and to guarantee they are in accord with the real-world needs of an ever-changing market. For instance, the statistical analysis using SPSS course attended by Dk Noorasyiqin binti Pg Dato Hj Sallehuddin, a marketing executive who wants to work in the research field



***Dk Noorasyiqin binti Pg Dato Hj Sallehuddin
(Age 27)
Marketing Executive
Statistical Analysis using SPSS Course***

It is essential to her career path that she enrolls in this course, which is a new knowledge to her and could help her adapt to a research environment with ease in the future. Other than that, individuals can also gain useful skills and knowledge that will benefit them both personally and professionally. This is because individuals can employ existing talents to learn something new. Learning to cook, for example, necessitates problem-solving. Continuous upskilling and reskilling are essential for individual fulfilment and building self-confidence in a rapidly changing world, as well as for professional advancements to maintain a flexible and competitive edge on the job market.



***Financial Planning for Children Programme
by Goodlife Financial Planning***

Siti Nabila binti Haji Abu Nipah, a participant in the Strategic Foresight and Policy Analysis programme, said the following:

“After I attended Strategic Foresight and Policy Analysis (UBD 3CL), it has helped me see things in a bigger perspective. To be able to plan strategically beyond the foreseeable future and analyse the current systems in place, to improve and implement better policies for generations to come”



Siti Nabilah binti Haji Abu Nipah (Age 29)
Special Duties Officer Grade II
Lifelong Learning Centre,
Ministry of Education
Strategic Foresight and Policy Analysis Course

Muhammad Thaqib bin Md Tuah, a freelance photographer mentioned that taking the Web Application Development course had made him more independent in doing research and finding resources by himself.

He also mentioned that:

"Since it is not my area of expertise, I find enjoyment and fulfilment in figuring out and solving problems. It also taught me that not all answers are by the book. It necessitates trial and error. Professionally, it paved the way for me to learn the program I had enrolled in more deeply and thoroughly. With these new skills, I intend to use them in my professional work and business."



Muhamamad Thaqib bin Md Tuah (Age 30)
Freelance Photographer
Web Application Development Course

Lifelong learning can assist people in keeping up with the most recent technologies and acquiring the necessary knowledge or skills as the job market becomes more competitive as experienced by Muhammad Thaqib. Lifelong learning can assist people in keeping up with the most recent technologies and acquiring the necessary knowledge or skills as the job market becomes more competitive as experienced by Muhammad Thaqib. Lifelong Learning benefits individuals because it gives them the knowledge, skills, values and understanding they will need in life. It also benefits communities and the economy as society learns new skills and ideas through lifelong learning. It fosters a society that is creative, innovative, productive and easily adaptable to a new environment.



Financial Planning for Children Programme
by Goodlife Financial Planning



As stated by Fatimah Sahida binti Abd Rajak, another participant on the Statistical Analysis using SPSS course:

“My ability to handle more jobs and responsibilities with current knowledge improved as a result of the course. It also helped me get the self-assurance I needed to take on new challenges. Continuous learning is crucial since it guarantees your professional competence or increases your chances of finding better employment. Additionally, we become less risk-averse and more adaptable to change when it occurs as a result of self-improvement.”



Fatimah Sahida binti Abd Rajak (Age 29)
Education Officer
Jabatan Pengajian Islam
Ministry of Religious Affair
Statistical Analysis using SPSS Course

Future of Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Centre would develop, implement, oversee and evaluate lifelong learning policies, frameworks, and guidelines. The centre will also help the Ministry of Education regulate the administration of programs for lifelong learning. In order to facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for lifelong learners, including jobseekers for future employment and career advancement, the Lifelong Learning Centre also supports the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) and JobCentre Brunei (JCB).

Building a successful, educated and technologically advanced society necessitates lifelong learning. With the existence of the Lifelong Learning Centre with their reskilling and upskilling courses, an individual's capacity to keep up with 21st century skills can be strengthened and enhanced, which is beneficial not only for the individual's career but also personal growth.

For more information about the Lifelong Learning Centre, visit <https://l3c.moe.gov.bn/> and on Instagram @l3centre.moe