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KYSM to forge ahead with green agenda

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KUALA LUMPUR: Kolej Yayasan Saad Melaka (KYSM) is forging ahead with its green initiatives, investing in energy-saving strategies in line with the government's mandate to recognise and create a sustainable future for the younger generation.

To keep operating costs low, the higher learning institute will soon turn to renewable energy by installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on its rooftops, an initiative that will cost about RM1.5 million.

The solar PV rooftop project was awarded to Pekat Solar Sdn Bhd.

Chairman of the board of governors Professor Dr Mohd Azizan Mohd Noor said Melaka-based KYSM spent RM1 million last year for maintenance.

It already kicked off its green initiatives by investing RM500,000 this year to replace all streetlights with LEDs, aligning with its sustainability agenda.

"Moving forward, we are looking at solutions for food waste, water management, and maybe electric buses as part of KYSM's sustainability agenda," he said.

KYSM has also devised a comprehensive plan to invest heavily in technology and infrastructure to stay at the forefront of educational innovation and remain competitive.

"A central component of this plan is to create modern learning spaces equipped with advanced technology, such as interactive whiteboards, digital laboratories, and hi-tech classrooms, to provide immersive learning experiences.

"Furthermore, we plan to invest in professional development for our staff to ensure they are proficient in the latest educational technologies and digital teaching methods.

"Through these strategic investments, we aim to offer a technologically advanced, future-focused education that equips our students with the skills they need for success in the future," Mohd Azizan told the New Straits Times.

Elaborating on being competitive on the global landscape as part of the long-term strategy, Mohd Azizan said KYSM is also expanding partnerships with universities and schools worldwide for student exchange programs.

"These partnerships offer students the chance to experience different educational systems and cultures, broadening their perspectives. Although KYSM is not a member of Global 30 Schools (G30), we have affiliations with some of the institutions listed in G30.

"We have established numerous relationships with other top educational institutions from all over the world. We have recently tied up with BC Academy Cambridge International School Kazan, Russia, to broaden the horizons of our students and nurture them to become impactful global citizens.

"We also have a long-term relationship with Vajiravudh College Thailand, with whom we have frequent student exchange programmes. These global relationships not only expose our students to international cultures but also instill the spirit to compete globally amongst the future leaders we are grooming for the future of Malaysia," Mohd Azizan said.

KYSM has established collaboration with universities in New Zealand, creating specialised pathways, particularly for commerce-related courses, and with Yokohama Science Frontier School, Japan, in exchange for science and orchestra.

KYSM was established in 1995 to provide quality secondary education for potentially qualified Bumiputera students of diverse backgrounds.

The school was officiated by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was deputy prime minister then.

The late Renong Education Centre (REC) director Datuk Rozalli Noordin was the man behind the school concept and was responsible for the construction of the school, which took a record four months to complete.

Mohd Azizan said KYSM is always open to exploring potential collaborations with other institutions.

"We are open to any potential opportunity to merge with or partner with any company that would be interested in managing our physical assets, as that will allow us to focus mainly on education," he said.

Mohd Azizan said KYSM is fully aware of the potential risks of evolving economic conditions and educational policies and has robust contingency plans.

These plans, he said, encompass financial, operational, and educational aspects to ensure KYSM can quickly adapt and continue providing quality education in any scenario.

"From a financial and operational perspective, we maintain a healthy reserve fund to manage unforeseen financial challenges.

"We also continuously monitor economic indicators and adjust our budget planning to optimise resource allocation. In terms of policy changes, we have a dedicated team that keeps abreast of local, national, and international educational policy developments," Mohd Azizan said.