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A group photo at the event.

Digitising KadazanDusun language

TUARAN: The Kadazandusun Language Department at the Teacher Education Institute Malaysia (IPGM) Kent Campus in Tuaran held a workshop on digitalising Kadazandusun terms, dictionaries and translations on April 16.

It aimed to promote the use of KadazanDusun by using digital technology for dictionaries and translations.

"A total of 49 student-teachers from the PISMP BKD September 2021-2026 and PPISMP BKD June 2024-2029 groups, along with 2 KadazanDusun language lecturers, participated in this programme."

Among the focuses of this workshop was contributing vocabulary from the native language into a digital application using the XAMPP platform.

Additionally, a student-teacher, Bluster Jainon, developed a digital BKD dictionary using GitHub as the hosting platform and domain for the dictionary.

The main goal of the workshop was to improve understanding of terminology, dictionary making, and translation and to guide participants in creating a mini digital dictionary to help with teaching and learning.

Frederick Assin (Full Stack Developer from UMS), invited speaker from UMS,

stated that the integration of technology into the learning of the KadazanDusun language is a positive step towards addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

He also mentioned that after reviewing the digital dictionary created by the student-teachers through the Canva and GitHub applications, the digital dictionary could be further improved and expanded to a better platform in order to maintain its quality and increase the availability of authentic KadazanDusun language information through reliable sources or internet search engines.

The coordinator of this programme, Rosmahwati Binti Ebbie said that the workshop is an excellent initiative to be carried out for the student-teachers at IPGM Kent Campus who are majoring in BKD, as it provides exposure on how to integrate technology into the teaching of this language.

She also believes that the impact of this workshop will benefit future generations of the KadazanDusun community, thereby elevating the status of this native language to prevent it from being lost to the forces of modernisation. Dr. Rosie Johny also attended this programme.