

OGDC: the pursuit of overtaking the STEM field

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The Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC) will be celebrating its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This 17<sup>th</sup> year marks the year where it will no longer be called OGDC. This is also the year whereby, the centre chose to be more bold, relevant and significant to our country. With this change, the centre will not only change its looks, its name but also its vision. A vision that will challenge the centre inside out, this by definition means, the people working in it, the programs that are going to be conducted as well as the exhibitions.

From having, To be the centre of excellence in promoting science, technology and innovation as the vision, the centre's vision is now revamped to "Premier science centre in Borneo". With this bold commitment comes the company core values to ensure that the centre is always heading towards the right direction. With that being said, the company core values now begins with ensuring that the community is always engaged in science and this is reached through interactive exhibitions and educational programs. The centre now aims to also inspire and spark passion in STEM amongst learners, induce potential next generation thinkers and always ensuring innovative teaching approach.

All these core values can only be made possible with the presence of highly motivated and competent staff. The people at our centre are provoked to have innovative thinking and encouraged to fully understand the vision and the core values of the company. Development and exposure for OGDC's educators are made a top priority as these frontlines are the ones that will be educating and entertaining our visitors. It is instilled in the minds of our educators to ensure that, visitors experience to the exhibition hall is made as "human" as possible. This is because the visitor's journey can be enhanced when they are guided and entertained by an informative tour guide or educator. Science centres are recreational places where by interaction between visitors and state of the art exhibitions can be enhanced by the existence of excellent educator and tour guides.

This is proven seen on one of the interviews done on year 9 students by OGDC in the research that the centre is currently doing on OGDC's science shows. OGDC science shows incorporates live performances with several entertaining demonstrations. One show explained how a rocket works. When students were asked, what is the difference between watching how a rocket works on Youtube and on a science show, they mentioned, seeing it live is much more exciting, they get to hear and see how things work in front of them. They are happy to be able to interact with the OGDC's educator on the spot. This is the kind of experience that a science centre needs to maintain to ensure it is forever leading in engaging our community with STEM education.

On top of that, understanding the trend of how science centre can remain as a leader is very crucial. This includes, incorporating the current issues that the country is currently facing and producing exhibits and programs that can increase awareness of the community on these issues. For OGDC, this is achieved by solidifying two focused area, that is by having exhibitions and programs that will enhance STEM competency in Brunei and produce and equip innovative next generation thinkers. Knowing the challenges and ways to overcome these challenges, especially if you are a small science centre and aiming to contribute to something big and outstanding. One of the ways to ensure sustainability of your centre is enhancing your relationship with your stakeholders.

There are so much more strategies that can be implemented for science centres to ensure they remain as leaders. Further in the presentation, these strategies will be shared during a parallel session. Hoping to be able to inspire other science centres to remain on top.