**Literacy and Numeracy Local Coaches**

The first cohort of 29 Local Coaches (LCs) received their certificate as Accredited Coach at a special event held at Sekolah Menengah Rimba II on 21 August 2017. These LCs represent some of the best teachers across the Brunei Education system who have the strengths and skills to develop as coaches in literacy and numeracy and to support the professional growth of teaching and content expertise in the literacy and numeracy teachers in school through the Literacy and Numeracy Coaching Programme (LNCP).

The Local Coach programme consists of 4 stages of professional developments which are the induction stage, accredited coach training, specialist coach training and the expert coach training. The local coaches has just completed the Accredited stage where they learned how to coach also demonstrate best practice pedagogy (e.g. dialogic teaching). They also coach their Learning Partners (LPs) using the best practice pedagogy. They will now continue with their Specialist coach stage where they will continue coaching their LP, they plan and deliver Professional Developments (PDs).

To be accredited educational professional, the Local Coaches are required to attend an induction programme, attend Coaching Model Training coaching of learning partner(s), weekly face-to face mentoring/support/reflection on role from International Coaches and the completion and submission of all training tasks supported by portfolio, as per the Local Coach Accreditation Process.

Some of the coaching activities between the Local Coaches and their Learning Partners are such as professional dialogue about teaching and learning; demonstrating, observing and discussing practice; collaborative lesson planning; team teaching and discussion; and workshops and video clubs.

The Local Coaches are assessed by the Brunei Darussalam Teachers Academy (BDTA) assessors overseen by the Capacity Building Supervisory Board. They are evaluated through attendance, full engagement in all PD activities, assessment of practice and the portfolio. They will only go through each stage via a summative assessment and the final accreditation will be as ‘Expert Literacy/Numeracy Coach’

With the accreditation of these Local Coaches, the education scene will have addition to the talent pool in terms of coaching and supporting professional growth in English literacy and mathematics within the school where the LCs are posted. Cikgu Ak Alif Wira Putra bin Pg Awang of Sekolah Rendah Pusar Ulak hopes that with the newly found skills and strengthened beliefs in pedagogical content knowledge, s/he will be able to contribute to her/his school in terms of supporting fellow teachers adopt best practices particularly in dialogic teaching an approach much lauded in promoting more meaningful learning experience for students.

The final outcome of the whole Literacy and Numeracy Programme is for the expert literacy and numeracy coaches to lead their school improvements in literacy and numeracy beyond 2019 in every school and having an impact on students achievement (PSR, PISA and O’Level).

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