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## For future generations

ENERASI Gemilang (glorious generation) is a non-profit welfare organisation that focuses on strengthening the family unit and nurturing the nation's future generations.

The outfit based in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, takes on a holistic approach towards reaching out to both youth and their parents through talks, workshops and counselling sessions.

Aside from those that instil societal values and leadership skills, Generasi Gemilang also carries out efforts that help the young and older generations navigate modern issues such as anger management, parent-child relationships, reproductive education, gender roles and identities, as well as cyber wellness.

It all began about three years ago when Daniel Tan, now the organisation's executive director, invited Keith Woo to check out a conference introducing the concept of cyber wellness in Singapore.

"We thought this was something Malaysia needed too," says Woo, now its Cyber Wellness Programme leader who has himself gone through life as a gaming addict.

The duo returned with a determination to start up a similar project in the Klang Valley. "We did a lot of research, creating the skeleton of a cyber wellness programme here," adds Woo.

It kicked off with a talk for parents called Mentoring the Internet Generation Online and Offline. "That's still running today, albeit more refined," he says. The pioneering project was followed up with a host of other community programmes that they knew would tie in well with their initiatives and objectives.

"So now we have programmes empowering youth, teams that talk about sex and relationships, as well as leadership and character development in youth," Woo explains.

With all that, the team eventually decided to put some structure into the organisation.

"We thought, let's do this for real, because we seriously believe the youth in Malaysia can be exemplary if they have all these values, and that's how project Generasi Gemilang was born."

While its first projects started way back in October 2008, the organisation only received its official registration as a welfare society in March last year. It is currently staffed by 17 full-time and part-time members.

Besides Mentoring the Internet Generation Online and Offline – a three-hour interactive seminar that explores specific trends and segments of today's cyber world – Generasi Gemilang's other cyber wellness programme targeting adults is an hourlong session that addresses cyber bullying.

"Anyone can approach us to organise a workshop or talk," Woo says, adding that they have been invited to do so by parent-teacher associations, corporations, youth bodies, churches and schools.

For more information on Generasi Gemilang, visit www.gengemilang.org/main.

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