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Jelita reporter wins two at Red Ribbon Awards

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Jelita magazine reporter Lily Haslina Nasir was named winner of two media awards for the print journalism - Bahasa Malaysia category at the Red Ribbon Media Awards 1998 presentation ceremony today.

She won both the print journalism Features category and the Special category for her articles, "Hidup Bersama Pesakit AIDS: Pengakuan Seorang Ibu" (Living With AIDS Patient: A Mother's Experience) and "Kemelut HIV/AIDS" (HIV/AIDS Crisis) respectively.

Lily Haslina who has been with Jelita since 1995, said the winning entries were two of her 12 articles published in the magazine's September 1996 issue that focused on AIDS.

Despite being five months pregnant when she was assigned the job in April that year, she managed to get interviews with the mother of an HIV-infected girl, professionals and non-governmental organisations dealing with the disease.

"I was sceptical at first and also worried for my baby but when I saw the suffering and the ordeal that the patients had to go through, I felt I must do something to help them.

The Red Ribbon Media Awards 1998 were presented to members of the print and electronic media, advertising and the arts to acknowledge their role in HIV/AIDS education and awareness in the country.

The Award which was presented in conjunction with the World AIDS Day, was introduced in 1996.

This year, the print journalism (English category) was won by The Star and Chinese category was won by Nanyang Siang Pau. The broadcast radio and television categories were won by entries from Radio dan Televisyen Malaysia. The advertising category was won by Leon Leong, visual arts category by Pamela Whitaker from GaleriWan, Bangsar, while DramaLab and Konsert Riben Merah '97 were joint winners in the performing arts category.

Prizes were presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, while his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah presented an award named after her to Kuala Lumpur Hospital infectious disease specialist Dr Christopher Lee.

Dr Lee who is an executive council member of the foundation received the gold-plated pewter trophy and a certificate for his individual contribution towards alleviating AIDS patients' sufferings since 1992.

Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir earlier in her speech suggested several ways to fire the spirit of change among the young, in line with the theme for this year - Force For Change: World AIDS Campaign With Young People.

The foundation also received a donation of RM50,000 from Far East Consortium (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, owners of the hotel. Company deputy managing director Datin Nancy Chiu presented a mock cheque for the amount to Dr Mahathir who received it on behalf of the foundation.

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