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First-timers grab national science quiz prize

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - First-time entrant Maktab Rendah Sains Mara Langkawi today won the National Science Quiz 2001.

Fifth formers Zulkifli Ibrahim, Mohd Khairul Fazly Ahmad and Amir Ariff Mohamed Hasan clinched the Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy, plus a trip to witness the Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, and a tour of research facilities in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The team also won RM2,000 for their school.

Mohd Khairul was named Best Performer. The victory was made all the more sweeter for the youngsters when they received their awards from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The final round of the competition was held this morning at the PWTC.

The win was unexpected for the trio who had thought that the experience would merely be "testing the water".

"We didn't even think of winning," said Mohd Khairul.

The trio in fact did not realise that the grand prize - the visit to Stockholm - was up for grabs until they reached round two of the competition which included competing against other northern region schools.

Round one comprised the state-level competition.

Round three, in turn, was today's finals and saw champions from the Northern, Southern, Central and Eastern regions battling their wits to answer a total of 62 oral questions in 90 minutes.

Crowd favourite Sekolah Seri Puteri, Kuala Lumpur was placed second, while Sekolah Menengah Bantuan St Joseph in Kuching, Sarawak and Sekolah Menengah Sains Raja Tun Azlan Shah in Taiping, Perak were second runner-up and third runner-up respectively.

The competition was organised by the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia while Novozymes Malaysia Sdn Bhd sponsored the trip to Sweden and Denmark.

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