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Five shortlisted for youth ambassador

Julia Chan

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Five outstanding Malaysians have been shortlisted to be the first Malaysian Youth Ambassador.

Chan Yuen-Li, 35, Aziwahija Yeop, 31, Jerry Kamit, 27, Maznah Zulklifi, 30, and Ang John Wei, 17, were selected for outstanding performance in their respective fields.

In conjunction with National Youth Day 2003, the Youth and Sports Ministry is introducing the idea to recognise achievements of Malaysian youths and youth associations.

Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein announced this at the launching of the National Youth Day 2003 theme and logo here today.

Other activities include a youth showcase exhibition, annual youth convention, national youth award and youth association award.

Hishammuddin said the ambassador would be selected based on outstanding performance at both national and international levels.

"Their contribution to society will be acknowledged and they will also be the role model for Malaysian youths," he said.

The five shortlisted candidates were selected out of 28 nominations from various categories such as arts, sports, entrepreneur, information technology, innovation and career.

Ang, the youngest candidate out of 28 nominations, was selected for his contribution in the IT field. The Terengganuborn Ang has represented the country at international conferences around the world, giving talks on specific subjects.

Silat exponent Aziwahija started the art at the age of 13 and at 14, was conducting his own class of 30 students.

"I hope to further develop the art and someday introduce Malaysia as a land synonymous with silat," said Aziwahija.

Chan is an active sports competitor, while Kamit is an ethnic music player specialising in the sape. Maznah is a television personality who is also into paragliding.

The ambassador will be selected through a public SMS voting system.

The National Youth Day themed Driving the Nation's Excellence will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, on May 15.